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NIFTY NINTH ISSUE!

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 9 FDC 50160 FEBRUARY 1993

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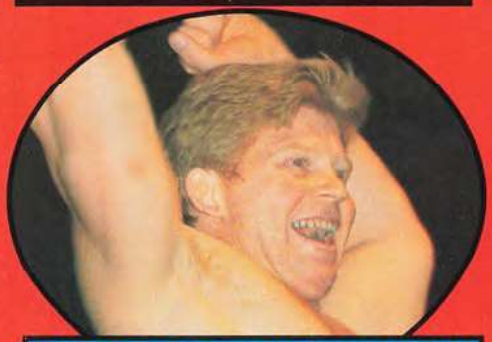

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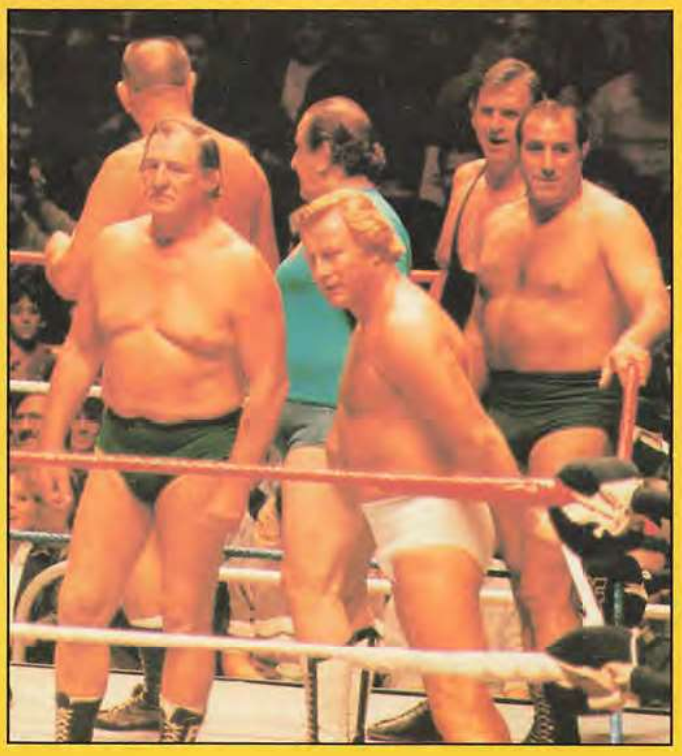

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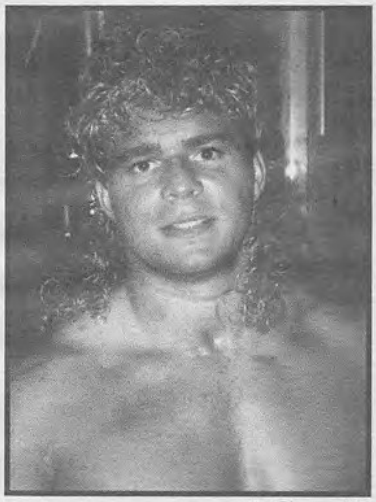

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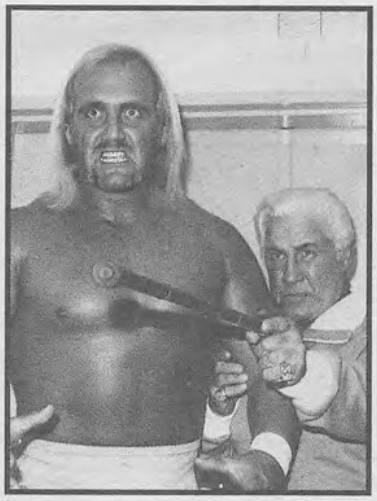

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Bob Backlund, Fred Blassie with Hulk Hogan *(Michael O'Hara)*, Linda Dallas *(Jon Simmes)*, Brian Pillman *(Pete Lederberg)*.
Back Cover Photos:
Dream Warriors & Ronnie Lottz *(WCW)*, Bart Sawyer *(Billie Jessee)*, The Terminator *(Dave Cameron)*.

New Wave Wrestling™

OFFICIAL PRO-WRESTLING RANKINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Bret "Hitman" Hart
2. Shawn Michaels
3. The Undertaker
4. "Razor" Ramon
5. The British Bulldog
6. The Ultimate Warrior
7. "Nature Boy" Ric Flair
8. Randy "Macho Man" Savage
9. Bob Backlund
10. Damien Demento

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
TOP-FIVE TAG TEAMS

1. Money Incorporated
2. The Ultimate Maniacs
3. The Nasty Boys
4. The Beverly Brothers
5. The Headshrinkers

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Steve "Dr. Death" Williams (U.S.)
2. Riki Chosyu (Japan)
3. Big Van Vader (U.S.)
4. Stan Hansen (U.S.)
5. Keiji "The Great Muta" Muto (Japan)
6. Bret "Hitman" Hart (Canada)
7. Tatsumi Fujinami (Japan)
8. Genichiro Tenryu (Japan)
9. Dave "Fit" Finlay (U.K.)
10. El Canek (Mexico)

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Jushin "Thunder" Liger (Japan)
2. Brian Pillman (U.S.)
3. Pierroth (Mexico)
4. Chic Cullen (U.K.)
5. The Samurai (Japan)
6. The Ultimate Dragon (Japan)
7. Danny Collins (U.K.)
8. Jim Backlund (U.S.)
9. Dean Malenko (U.S.)
10. Sunny Wonder (Nigeria)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
TOP-TEN HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Ron Simmons
2. Steve "Dr. Death" Williams
3. Rick Rude
4. Big Van Vader
5. Sting
6. Barry Windham
7. Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat
8. Nikita Koloff
9. "Stunning" Steve Austin
10. Cactus Jack

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
TOP-FIVE TAG TEAMS

1. Arn Anderson & "Beautiful" Bobby Eaton
2. Ricky Steamboat & Shane Douglas
3. Steve Williams & Steve Austin
4. Nikita Koloff & Kensuke Sasaki
5. Ron Simmons & Sting

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN TAG TEAMS

1. Terry Gordy & Steve Williams (U.S.)
2. Jumbo Tsuruta & Akira Taue (Japan)
3. Bam Bam Bigelow & Big Van Vader (U.S.)
4. The Steiners — Rick & Scott (U.S.)
5. Franz Schumann & Mile Zrno (Europe)
6. The Rock & Roll Express (U.S.)
7. Shinya Hashimoto & Riki Chosyu (Japan)
8. The Bruise Brothers (U.S.)
9. El Texano & Silver King (Mexico)
10. "Sweet" Stan Lane & Dr. Tom Prichard (U.S.)

INTERNATIONAL
TOP-TEN WOMEN

1. Bull Nakano (Japan)
2. Aja Kong (Japan)
3. Bison Kimura (Japan)
4. Terri Power (U.S.)
5. Tomoko Watanabe (Japan)
6. Nicki Monroe (U.K.)
7. Reggie Bennett (U.S.)
8. La Tigressa (Puerto Rico)
9. Misty Blue (U.S.)
10. "Yukon Erica" Dutkowski (Canada)

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COMMENTARY
FROM THE CUTTING EDGE
by Publisher/Editor MICHAEL O'HARA

RENOVATIONS, RESOLUTIONS & REVOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

Hello, ***New Waver!*** As always, thanks for being the most important part of our monthly slam-a-rama! As you can see, because of popular demand, we have expanded our format in order to cover ALL aspects of our beloved mat sport. Our newsreel coverage of the U.S., independents, and international arenas has increased, and our additional pages provide ample room for even greater investigation into the backgrounds of your favorites.

Bowing to the avalanche of requests for color pinups, we present the cantankerous color pages in true ***New Wave Wrestling*** style with our new *FAX FILES,* which provide vital statistics on the greatest of the great! Now, more than ever before, ***New Wave Wrestling*** has proven to be the official magazine of record for the serious student of the mat sport. On to this month's editorial....

Although it has been somewhat fashionable to bemoan the status of modern-day mat mauling, ***New Wave Wrestling*** would prefer to offer its own humble suggestions to the powers-that-be in the grappling game. We are here to encourage the wrestling impresarios of the world to do their very best, because when they succeed, we all win! The entire staff at ***New Wave HQ*** are supportive of any endeavors that can help add greater prestige to the world's greatest sport.

Most importantly, promoters should treat their employees, namely the wrestlers, with dignity and respect. Let's face it, gang, without them, we'd all be looking at empty rings, and the promoters would be looking at empty arenas.

In spite of the huge salaries that are spoken about in hushed tones, most grappling gladiators continue to eke out a meager living, logging countless hours on the highways in order to keep food on their family's table.

I think it would be fair to say that morale would improve if the wrestlers felt that they meant more to a promoter than just being a walking slab of meat. Medical coverage would be a step in the right direction. Traveling schedules that no longer disrupt the wrestler's limited family life would be another positive move.

Other innovations we'd like to see include:

• A move away from long-term contracts: WCW honcho, Bill Watts, is making an effort along those lines, and, in time, it will balance things out. In lieu of written commitments, promoters should provide fair and adequate payment based upon a percentage of the gate receipts (including pay-per-view revenue).

• A greater opportunity for wrestlers to move from one promotion to another: The talent is contracted for years at a time, and the fans are tired of seeing the same faces compete against one another.

• An overhaul of the stale TV wrestling format: No one cares about the endless, lopsided matches dished out for hours on end during the weekends. It would require effort, but promoters, specifically the WWF and WCW, should create a diverse TV product combining interviews, match highlights, and career profiles that would keep fans riveted to their seats.

Let's see an enthusiastic, energized optimism engulf the mat sport. The worldwide mat audience is hungry for quality wrestling. Throughout the ages, in good times and bad, and, no doubt, well into the far-flung future, wrestling has always been with us, and it's here to stay. There is no reason why it can't evolve and move closer towards what it can be — a true exhibition of science, strength, and skill, with two gladiators valiantly exchanging holds and counterholds, as the fans sit spellbound in awe. What more could anyone ask for?

MICHAEL O'HARA

NEXT WAVE NEWSREEL

MAT NEWS OF THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE!

TITLE TALES: Bret Hart and Shawn Michaels have engaged in classic championship contests in recent months. photo: Jeff Meridian

• **WWF News:** ***New Wavers*** have been clamoring for the exact dates of the various WWF title changes that occurred over the past few months — so here goes! **Shawn Michaels** defeated **the British Bulldog** *(Davey Smith)* for the WWF Intercontinental title on October 27, 1992 at the TV tapings held in Terre Haute, Indiana...**Bret "Hit Man" Hart's** surprise upset over **"Nature Boy" Ric Flair** on October 12, 1992 at the television tapings in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada was necessitated because of **Ric Flair's** legitimate inner ear injury, which occurred at the hands of **the Ultimate Warrior** during a match on October 9, 1992 in Phoenix, AZ. This unexpected situation forced the talented blond rulebreaker to sit on the sidelines for most of the last few months...**Money Incorporated** *(Ted DiBiase & Irwin R. Shyster)* recaptured the WWF tag belts on October 13, 1992 at another WWF TV taping held in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

New faces have included **Bam Bam Bigelow, Damien Demento** *(formerly competing on the U.S. independent circuit as Mondo Kleen)*, **Lance Cassidy** *("Young Pistol" Steve Armstrong)*, **Doink the Clown** *(Matt Borne, who was formerly "Big Josh" in WCW)*, **Jimmy Garvin** *(James Williams)*, **Yokozuna** *(formerly competing as the Great Kokina)*, **the Headshrinkers** *(formerly the Samoan Swat Team — Samu & Fatu)*.

There is still talk of **Captain Lou Albano's** return to manage the recently converted fan favorites — **Saggs & Knobbs — the Nasty Boys**, as well as **Bob Backlund**. And speaking of **Bob**, the former champ began his latest stint in the WWF with matches against **the Mountie** *(Jacques Rougeau Jr.)*, who might be leaving the Federation soon. **Backlund** is currently feuding with **Ric "the Model" Martel** and **Razor Ramon** *(Scott Hall)*.

Max Moon *(Paul "Kato" Diamond)* is getting decent recognition by the fans, but, as usual, the stigma against masked men in the major leagues lingers, so his push might be short-lived. Let's hope not!

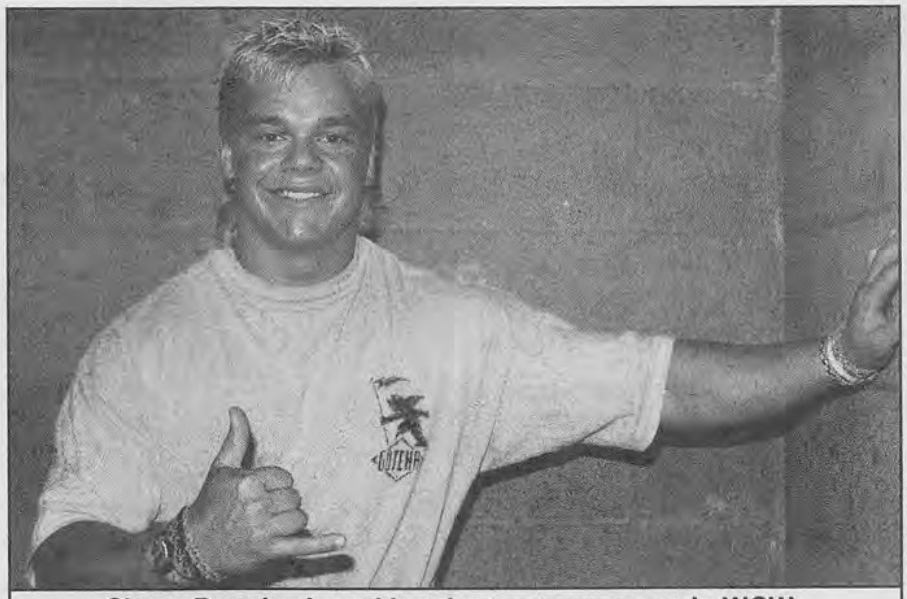
Bret "Hit Man" Hart's WWF World title defenses against **Shawn Michaels** saw **Marty Jannetty** in the corner of the WWF kingpin.

The WWF's next European tour is slated for February, 1993...**The Undertaker** has been out of action with a serious

Erik Watts: Too much – too soon? photo: Craig Prendergast

shoulder separation that could linger into the new year...There has been talk that **Ted DiBiase** might possibly be heading to All-Japan Promotions after he completes his current commitments.

• **WCW News:** Morale appears to be a problem lately, as a number of stars are heading off in search of greener pastures, including: **Terry Gordy** (already gone), **Ricky Steamboat** (potentially Japan), **the Steiners** (New Japan or WWF), and **Nikita Koloff** (???)....Congratulations to ***New Wave Wrestling 's*** good friend **Johnny Gunn**, who has finally obtained his much deserved break with WCW...Since the mid-1980s, this Pennsylvania star has been touring throughout the United States, the Caribbean, and Europe. Best of luck to you, **Johnny G.** — it's good to see you compete where you rightfully belong!...Although the grappling game has always been notorious for its nepotistic tendencies, **Erik Watts** is, by far, getting a major push too fast.



Shane Douglas is making the tag-team scene in WCW. photo: Tony Valotta

Erik has the tools, but he has a long, hard journey ahead of him...Newcomers include: **Tony "Mr. USA" Atlas**, the masked **"Shanghai" Pierce** *(Mark Cantaberry)*, **Tex Slashinger** *("Tex" Sallinger)*, and **Robbie "Hurricane" Walker** (from the ICWA/Florida circuit).

The most surprising, as well as most refreshing, tag tandem on the WCW scene is **Shane Douglas** and **Ricky "the Dragon" Steamboat**. Not since the days of **Ricky**'s Mid-Atlantic tag years with the late, great **Jay Youngblood**, have we seen the martial arts master so complemented by a partner's style.

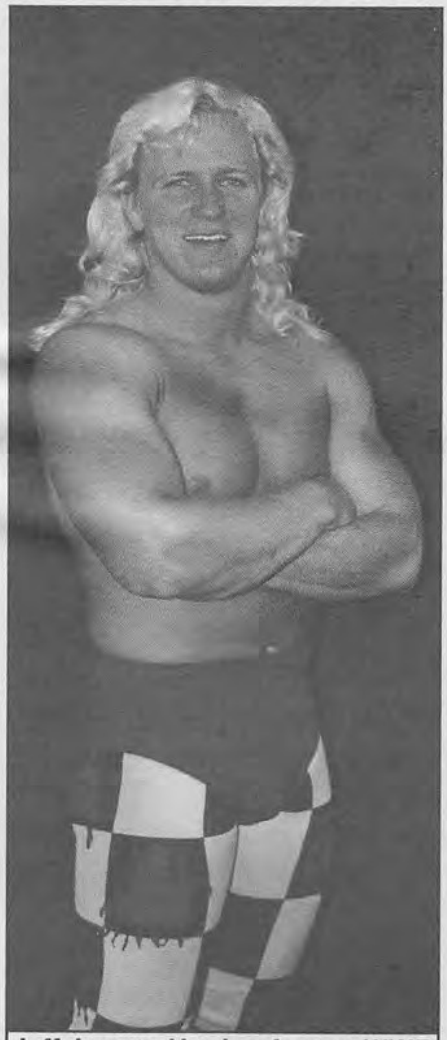
It's pretty doubtful that the **Paul E. Dangerously-Madusa Miceli** grudge feud was ever seen by WCW's owner **Ted Turner** and his wife **Jane Fonda**. Considering how involved **the Turners** are with social causes, they'd probably flip their lids if they ever got a gander of this silly story line! We've said it before, and we're gonna say it some more — **Madusa Miceli** is the single greatest lady wrestler in North America, but she's stuck in these embarrassing skits. If WCW ever let her loose as a competitor, their attendance figures would soar, and she'd easily show her male counterparts what REAL wrestling is all about. Perhaps the male egos at WCW are too fragile for such an unthinkable experience.

On a more positive note — a special ***New Wave*** twenty-one dropkick salute to WCW for

Tony Atlas has challenged Ron Simmons to a WCW muscle tussle! photo: Jon Simmes

instituting their *"Battle of the Underdogs"* Series, which pits two preliminary competitors against one another on their weekly Saturday broadcasts. Not only does it provide a rare opportunity for the unsung heroes and villains of the ring to strut their stuff but also works as a much-needed morale booster.

One thing that WCW could have done without is their recent *"King of Cable"* tournament. With World single and tag-team titles, along with TV and United States straps, it would appear that the league has more than its fair share of championships. Perhaps it would be wiser to concentrate on gaining greater recognition for their current roster of title holders, rather than water down the strength of their talent pool with more accolades.



Jeff Jarrett: Hoping for top WWF action. photo: Jerry Wilson

Roy Heffernan (right), and partner Al Costello (left), were the Kangaroos — one of the premier tag teams of the 1950s & 1960s. photo: Dave Cameron

• **CURFEW NOTES:** Sadly, we report the passing of the following mat greats:

"Kangaroo" Roy Heffernan, 67, suffered a massive heart attack on September 24, 1992, after falling off a ladder and breaking his back. **Roy** formed the famed team, **the Kangaroos**, with fellow Kiwi great **Al Costello**. They remained one of the top heel teams throughout the 1950s and early 1960s.

"Professor" Roy Shire, 70, the former NWA tag-team champion, died of a heart attack on September 24, 1992. **Shire** held the NWA World tag-team championship with his partner, **"Crippler" Ray Stevens**, in 1960, and he later became a wrestling promoter in the San Francisco area. His monthly events staged at the Cow Palace drew incredibly large gates, and with major national talent flown in every year, **Shire's** yearly battle royals read like a who's who in the sport. ***NWW***

New Wave Notebook
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SPECIAL! AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE CAREER OF RODDY PIPER

ISSUE #2 Interviews with Jerry "the King" Lawler, Owen "the Rocket" Hart, Dick "the Bulldog" Brower (Part 2), plus features on Madusa Miceli, Sid Justice & "Rowdy" Roddy Piper.

ISSUE #3 Interviews with Adrian Street, Brittany Brown, the Thunderbolts, Dick "the Bulldog" Brower (Part 3), plus Rick & Scott Steiner, Hulk Hogan in Japan & The New Wave Wrestlers!

ISSUE #4 Interviews with Luna Vachon, Blackjack Mulligan, Little Louie, Johnny Hotbody, plus profiles on "Superstar" Billy Graham, "Nature Boy" Ric Flair & the Ultimate Warrior!

ISSUE #5 Interviews with Mike Graham, "Cowboy" Bob Orton Jr., Mr. Sandman, Miss Texas, Shawn Michaels profile, plus Hulk Hogan!

ISSUE #6 Interviews with Steve Armstrong, Pat Barrett (Part 1), Peggy Lee Leather, the Mongolian Mauler + profiles on British Bulldog and Sting!

ISSUE #7 Interviews with Phil Apollo, the Rockin' Rebel, Pat Barrett (Part 2), Baby Doll + the Undertaker, Steve Williams & a Buddy Rogers tribute!

ISSUE #8 Interviews with Ivan Koloff, Jay Eagle Italian Stallion, Shining Star, plus Van Vader, Ron Simmons, Ultimate Warrior & Jake Roberts!

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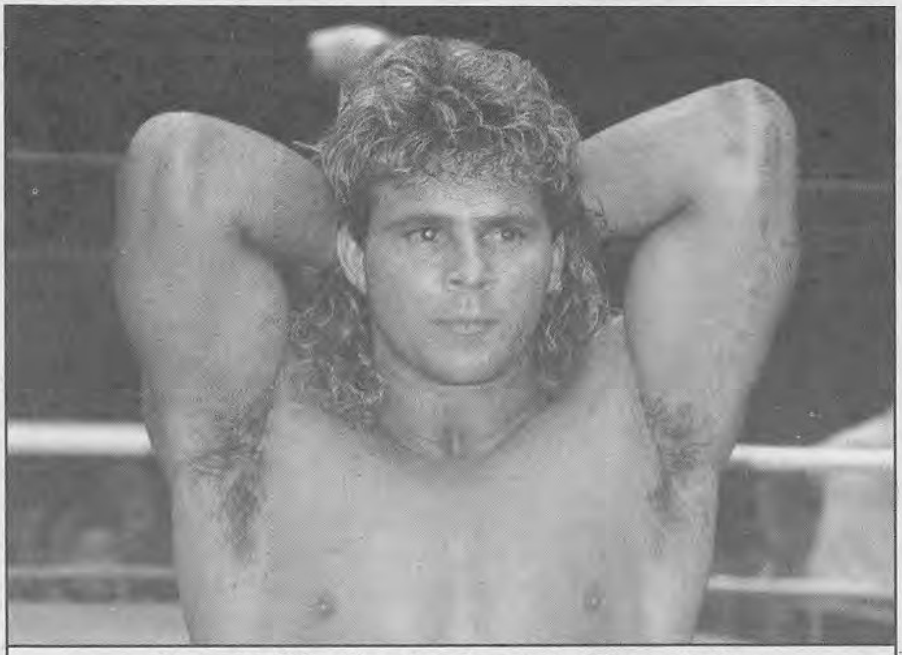
FLYIN' BRIAN PILLMAN

The High Flyer Who Fell From Grace



No more "Mr. Nice Guy." photo: Gregg Lalka

by Michael O'Hara

Who can deny the phenomenal attributes of Flyin' Brian Pillman? He has superb technical skills, unrivaled aerial ability, a magnificently chiseled physique, and a sparkling personality; however, this once popular mat master continues to be stymied at every turn by a promotion which neither appreciates his masterful moves nor understands the true value of this internationally acclaimed junior heavyweight.

Pillman has now taken the role of the "bad guy," a position which seems to come naturally to him. Most ringsiders, however, suspect that he would still prefer to hear cheers than jeers. For Brian's long-term future in World Championship Wrestling, there seemed to be no other option than a personality shift towards arrogance.

It is not as if this young lion has not proven his worth to the promotion. Will anyone ever forget his classic confrontations with the equally unbelievable Jushin "Thunder" Liger last year? And what about the WCW light-heavyweight division? Pillman had certainly attained the center spotlight, albeit briefly, as he exchanged lightning-quick maneuvers with wrestlers Johnny B. Badd, Johnny Flamingo, Brad Armstrong, Bobby Eaton, and the above-mentioned Liger.

With heavyweights outweighing him by more than 50 pounds, Brian has held his own against Lex Luger, Barry Windham, and Norman the Lunatic. Let's face it, ***New Waver***, you would be hard-pressed to remember seeing "the Flyin' One" in a single bad match.

Whether he's a hero or a heel, Pillman deserves much better treatment than what he's been receiving. He has paid his dues, and it's time for him to reap the benefits of his six years of trial by fire in the professional wrestling rings.

Setbacks have never kept this good man down. As a collegiate football player at the University of Miami, he earned All-American and Most Valuable Player awards on two separate occasions.

Later, Brian played professionally with the Cincinnati Bengals, and he was overjoyed to compete before his hometown

Perhaps Brian has always been a loner. While on a Japanese tour, he is seen here keeping his distance from partners Tom "Z-Man" Zenk and Tim Horner. photo: Koichi Yoshizawa

crowd. A gridiron mishap forced an early retirement from the game he loved, but his spirits remained high as he quickly set his sights on a new world to conquer—professional wrestling.

He traveled to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where he enrolled in the legendary Stu Hart Wrestling School. Hart, a wrestler-turned-promoter, has a wrestling family big enough to fill an entire promotion, including sons Bret, Owen, Keith, and Smith, along with sons-in-law Davey Boy Smith, Dynamite Kid, Jim Neidhart, and Ben Bassarab. In fact, most of the family passed in and out of Stu's regional league, known as *Stampede Wrestling Promotions*. It was there that Brian harnessed his energies and created his own unique style, a fusion of the American, Canadian, European, and Japanese wrestling styles.

Within his first year on the circuit as a pro-wrestler, Brian captured the International tag-team titles with partner Bruce Hart, and he was named Rookie of the Year (1987).

He blossomed into a full-fledged main-event star, never hesitating to remind fans that his success was achieved through sheer dedication, determination, and plenty of hard work. He was living proof of that.

Upon his WCW debut in 1989, Brian literally exploded on the scene with his incredible arsenal of aerial moves. photo: Brian Hildebrand

News of this Ohio sensation's exploits traveled throughout North America, and, in 1989, he made his wrestling debut under the National Wrestling Alliance banner. The fans immediately took to his effortless, sensational mat moves, as well as his easy-going persona, but, from the very onset, the promotion was always afraid to let him cut loose (perhaps in fear that he'd make their "established superstars" look pale by comparison).

He scored incredible pinfall wins over the biggest rough-house grapplers on the circuit; however, because of his light-heavyweight status, there was always a barrier preventing him from achieving a major breakthrough. Even the creation and short-lived impetus behind the light-heavyweight division did not provide an adequate platform for Pillman's skills. The promotion panicked, not knowing what to make of the fans' tremendous

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enthusiasm for this dynamic wrestling division of highly-trained, fantastically-conditioned, and blindingly-quick athletes. WCW shuffled the deck at each television taping. One week, Johnny B. Badd was the flavor of the week; the next, Johnny Flamingo. All the while, Brian Pillman and Jushin Liger stood on the sidelines, scratching their heads in disbelief.

Perhaps the light heavies were too talented for their own good. To stem the growing fan enthusiasm, "Cowboy" Bill Watts disbanded the title in the last quarter of 1992, with the promise of restructuring the division in the near future (hopefully by the time you read this). Just prior to that shocking decision by Watts, Brian experienced a change of heart. By virtue of his attack on the injured Brad Armstrong during the September 2, 1992 *Clash of Champions* television special, he went from the peak of the popularity poll, directly to the top of the fans' hit list.

Pillman's new arrogant snarl is a far cry from his old, friendly persona. photo: Craig Prendergast

Even a powerhouse like Lex Luger was hard-pressed to put this dynamic Ohio native down. photo: Ed Russino

Frustrated by his lack of opportunity, as well as the promotion's indecision on where the acrobatic, charismatic wrestler fit in to the overall configuration of matchmaking, Flyin' Brian went berserk, throwing his popularity aside by clobbering Armstrong, the light-heavyweight champion. Desperate times call for desperate actions, and Pillman, sensing that he was slowly but surely being phased out of the championship picture, made a last ditch effort to redeem his status and make good on all of those broken promises made to him by executives of yore.

Adding fuel to the fire, the promotion allegedly felt that Brian's two-year contract (rumored to be very close to a mid-six figure income, cumulatively) was somewhat exorbitant for a junior-heavyweight, and that renegotiation was in order.

To Bill Watts' credit, he has performed nothing short of a miracle for WCW since taking the reigns as the top mat honcho. However, devaluing one of the potential blue chip performers is something that has not won him many points with the fans.

Pillman had no choice but to become another pinup-boy-gone-bad. Perhaps there will come a time when talent and ability in the squared circle is all that a gifted gladiator will ever need; but until that time comes, the great and the ne'er-do-wells will stand side by side — posing, posturing, strutting, and bellowing. In the process, Flyin' Brian Pillman, along with the rest of the talent, will have to hover with the buzzards, rather than soar with the eagles. ***NWW***

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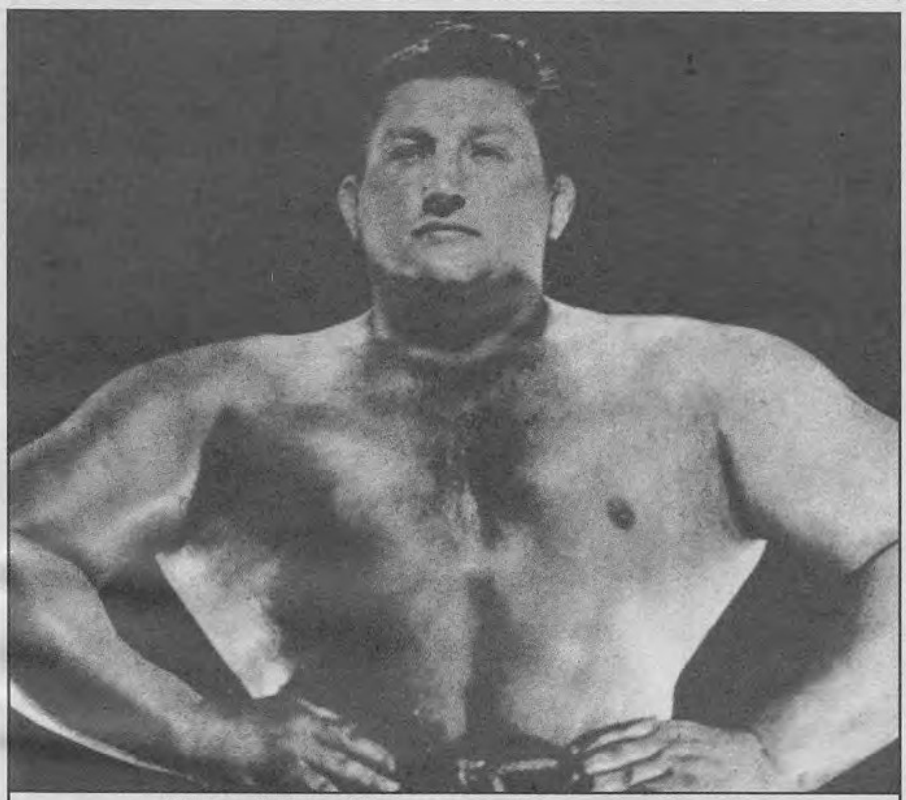
The NOSTALGIA ZONE!

compiled by Michael O'Hara

New Wave Wrestling is proud of the grappling game's glorious past. In this issue, the spotlight shines on the major mat upsets and surprising title changes that have taken place during the month of JANUARY!



"Yukon" Eric: A great wrestler — a tragic end.
photo: Dave Cameron collection

1/1/82 Tokyo, Japan: Tiger Mask (Satoru Sayama) pinned the Dynamite Kid (Tom Billington) to win the WWF junior-heavyweight crown!

1/2/82 Portland, OR: Brett "Hacksaw" Sawyer won an elimination battle royal to capture the vacant Pacific Northwest heavyweight title.

1/5/44 Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Bobby Managoff defeated and unmasked the Czar (Dick Lever).

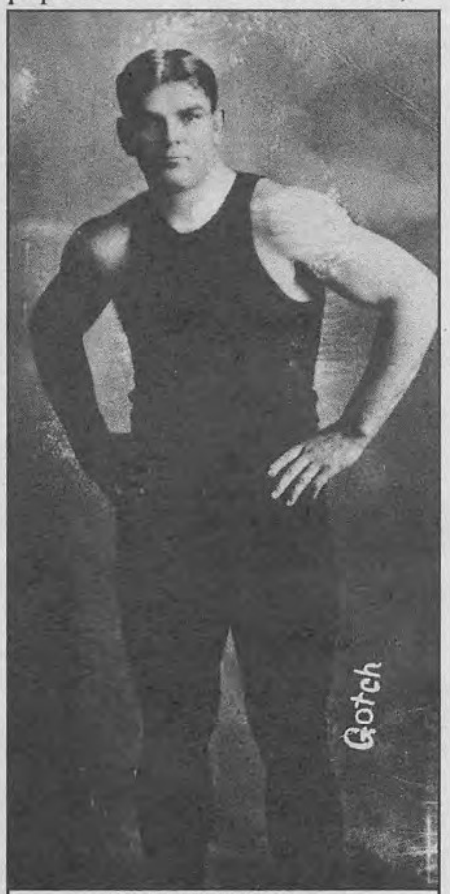
1/6/86 Tampa, FL: Jesse Barr upset Lex Luger for the NWA Southern title.

1/7/66 St. Louis, MO: Gene Kiniski pinned Lou Thesz to win the National Wrestling Alliance World title, ending Thesz's sixth and final title reign.

1/8/83 Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada: Moose Morowski and Sgt. Al Tomko beat Dean Ho and Ed "Moondog" Moretti for the International tag-team straps.

1/9/80 Los Angeles, CA: The Twin Devil won the 12th annual 22-man elimination battle royal.

1/10/83 Memphis, TN: With outside help from Jimmy Hart and the late Andy Kaufman, who played Latka Gravas on the popular 1970s TV show *TAXI*,



Frank Gotch was a champion's champion.
photo: Charles Gilbert collection

January 28, 1978 Houston, TX: "Maniac" Mark Lewin served a "knuckle sandwich" to Dusty Rhodes. photo: Dave Cameron

Nick Bockwinkel regained the AWA World title from Jerry "the King" Lawler.

1/11/81 Dallas, TX: Kerry von Erich and **Bruiser Brody** pinned **Gino Hernandez** and Gary Young for the American tag-team titles at 12:02.

1/12/81 Ft. Worth, TX: Raul Mata and **Chief White Cloud** pinned "Killer" Tim Brooks and **Raul Castro** for the vacant Texas tag-team titles.

1/14/72 Los Angeles, CA: Bruno Sammartino won the annual battle royal.

1/15/79 Memphis, TN: Ron Fuller defeated Austin Idol for the AWA Southern belt.

1/16/65 Cartersville, GA: "Yukon" Eric Holmback took his own life with a fatal gunshot wound.

1/17/82 Toronto,Ontario, Canada: Angelo Mosca beat "Big" John Studd in a steel-cage match to regain the Canadian heavyweight title.

1/18/71 Madison Square Garden, New York City: Ivan "The Russian Bear" Koloff upset Bruno Sammartino for the WWWF World heavyweight championship.

1/19/73 St. Louis, MO: Johnny Valentine pinned Harley Race to win the vacant Missouri heavyweight title.

1/20/80 San Bernadino, CA: Andre the Giant defeated Harley Race, the NWA World champion, via disqualification.

1/21/88 Uniondale, Long Island, NY: Larry Zbyszko pinned Barry Windham for the NWA Western States Heritage belt.

1/22/72 San Francisco, CA: Ray Stevens won the fourth annual 18-man battle royal.

1/22/79 Madison Square Garden, NYC: "Rowdy" Roddy Piper (Roderick Toombs) made his Madison Square Garden debut; he pinned Frank Williams at 12:17.

1/23/84 Madison Square Garden, NYC: Hulk Hogan pinned the Iron Sheik (Khosrow Vaziri) to win the WWF World title at 5:04.

1/24/63 Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Lou Thesz defeated "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers for the NWA World title. This began Thesz's sixth and final title reign.

"The Russian Bear" Ivan Koloff proudly wore the WWWF World championship in 1971.

1/25/78 Miami, FL: WWWF champ "Superstar" Billy Graham went to a draw with NWA champion Harley Race in a battle of the World champions at the first NWA Super Bowl of Wrestling.

1/26/87 Tampa, FL: The Hart Foundation defeated the British Bulldogs (Davey Boy Smith and the Dynamite Kid).

1/27/04 Bellingham, WA: Frank Gotch defeated Tom Jenkins via disqualification in a two-out-of-three fall match at 53:00 (total time). The referee disqualified Jenkins for attempting to gouge Gotch's eyes out.

1/28/79 Houston, TX: "Maniac" Mark Lewin pinned Dusty Rhodes for the Texas Brass Knuckles title.

1/29/68 New York City: WWWF World champion Bruno Sammartino and challenger Prof. Taru Tanaka headlined the last main event held at the old Madison Square Garden.

THE TERMINATOR

He's One Tough Dude!

interview by Billie Jessee

The Terminator is here! photo: Tony Valotta

NW: Where were you born?
TT: I wasn't born, I was made.
NW: Why did you become a professional wrestler?
TT: I saw other people in the business getting paid to beat up people, and I thought since I'm doing that anyway, I might as well get paid for it.
NW: Did you have any amateur wrestling experience?
TT: No. I played college football, and I also have four state records for lifting weights.
NW: Who trained you to become a professional wrestler?
TT: Primarily, I was trained by Gene Anderson and Nelson Royal, but I also had help from my brother, Animal (of the Legion of Doom), Johnny Ace, Dusty Rhodes, and Ric Flair.
NW: What do you like about being a wrestler?
TT: I like the money. I also get pleasure from making people suffer in the ring.
NW: Who has been the strongest influence in your career?
TT: It has to be my brother Animal. He is big, strong, and powerful.
NW: Which wrestlers did you admire while growing up?
TT: I admired no one. There's no one like me, and there never will be.
NW: What do you think is your strongest point as a wrestler?
TT: I was brought up to be the very best at what I do, and I am the very best at wrestling. I work hard to look the way I do, and I think I look great.
NW: Where have you wrestled overseas?
TT: I have wrestled in Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Aruba, Jamaica, Bahamas, Cayman Islands, and Venezuela.
NW: Who has been your toughest wrestling opponent?
TT: Bruiser Brody has been my toughest opponent.
NW: Do you think there will ever be one World champion in professional wrestling?
TT: No. There are too many people out there who want to make a buck.
NW: How do you stay in shape?
TT: I'm in the gym six days a week. I lift weights, and twice a week, I make sure I work every body part. I exercise hard, eat hard, and party hard!
NW: What is your height and weight?
TT: I'm 6 feet, one inches tall, and I weigh 270 pounds.
NW: What was your first wrestling match like?
TT: It was at the Superdome in New Orleans. I was in Scandor Akbars' Devastation, Inc., with Big Bubba Rogers and Black Bart. It was the first blood cage match, and we went up against The Freebirds. Black Bart went out first, Buddy Roberts went out second, I went out third,

Michael Hayes came after me, "Bam Bam" Gordy and Bubba Rogers were last. I believe we were disqualified.

NW: What do you think of the independent promotions?

TT: I think they're great. I believe wrestling will eventually fall back to the independent promotions. In Japan, for example, wrestling is a very demanding sport physically; I've noticed that the independent promotions are more like that, too. They don't rely on television; therefore, they focus more on their talent. I've worked for both the WWF and WCW. I know almost everyone in both organizations, and there are a lot of great guys, but there are also a lot of jerks. I like the WWF and WCW. If my partner and I had the opportunity to work for either group, we'd go in full steam ahead!

NW: What has been a great moment for you in wrestling?

TT: My partner, Master Blaster, and I have been a team for the last couple of years. We are a great tag team, and we love to get in the ring and kick butt! We've held the Florida tag-team titles twice, and we currently hold the Australian and ICWA tag-team championships.

NW: Have you had any serious injuries in your career?

TT: I've had knee surgery, but it was nothing. I'm like a machine: I just become stronger and better.

NW: Where are you currently working?

TT: I'm working the independent circuits. I am not only a great wrestler but a great actor as well. I'm starring in episodes of *Superboy* and in *Hi, Honey, I'm Home* on Nickelodeon, the cable television station. In the future, I plan to do more acting than wrestling.

A rare treat in Japan: The Laurinaitis Brothers triumphant! From left to right — Terminator (Marc), Johnny Ace (Johnny), and Legion of Doom's Animal (Joseph). photo: Koichi Yoshizawa

NW: What do you think it takes to be a winner in wrestling?

TT: Only the strong survive in wrestling, and I am a strong survivor. You have to step on people to get to the top; I won't hesitate to step on anyone that gets in my way—my allies or enemies alike.

NW: What is your finishing move?

TT: My finishing move is *The Termination*, which is the most devastating move in wrestling.

NW: Are there any wrestling holds or moves that you think should be barred?

TT: No. If you can't take it, get out!

NW: Who do you think is a top wrestler today?

TT: I don't think I can pick just one guy. Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, and the Legion of Doom are all exceptional wrestlers. And of course, I am right up there with the best of them.

NW: What are your views on cable television and pay-per-view shows?

TT: Some people are paying for cable, and some people are making money off it. It all comes down to money. You can get almost anything on the pay-per-view shows: wrestling, movies, concerts, sports, and even the Bikini Opens, which I really enjoy. So many people are relying on the pay-per-view shows that, as a result, the live wrestling shows are on the decline.

NW: What are your hobbies?

TT: I like working out, lifting weights, women, and going to the beach. When I go to the beach, the women are all over me. I have a great body that is irresistible to beautiful women. I can't stop them from calling me all day and night.

NW: What kind of music do you listen to?

TT: I listen to hard rock. I'm very good friends with Skid Row and Motley Crue.

NW: Thanks, Terminator, for this interview.

TT: You're welcome. ***NWW***

Ring Legend Spotlight

A Conversation With:

"CLASSY" FRED BLASSIE

Interview by Billie Jessee

For more than five decades, Fred Blassie has been a unique personality in the mat world as both a wrestler and a manager. New Wave Wrestling is pleased to present a "Classy" interview with this ring legend!

Fred proudly raised the hand of his protégé Hulk Hogan at the end of this 1979 TV match. photo: Michael O'Hara

NW: When and where were you born?

FB: I was born on February 8, 1918 in St. Louis, Missouri.

NW: Have you ever wrestled under any name other than "Classy" Freddie Blassie?

FB: When I first started wrestling in California, I was teamed up with a guy named McDaniel, so I used that name for about a month.

NW: Is Fred Blassie also your real name?

FB: I never believed in changing my name. I figured if I was going to be a success, the name wouldn't matter. A promoter from St. Louis, Missouri did try to get me to change my name; he said that Blassie was a hard name to remember and pronounce. I thought that everyone would remember "Classy" Freddie Blassie, and that it was an easy name to pronounce. The first time I won the World heavyweight title, I sent that promoter a wire which said: "Not bad for a guy named Blassie."

NW: How did you get your start in professional wrestling?

FB: First, I did some boxing. My stepfather was an avid wrestling fan, and he strongly encouraged me to leave boxing and go into wrestling; however, at that time, he didn't intend for me to make a career of pro-wrestling, and neither did I.

There was a gym in St. Louis, on the corner of 6th and Pine, where the wrestlers used to do their workouts. I would go to that gym and do my workouts with them. That's really how I got my start in wrestling.

NW: Did you have any amateur wrestling background?

FB: No. I didn't start as an amateur wrestler. I trained with the top wrestling stars, and I then went directly in as a pro. I was a sparring partner for all the top-notch wrestlers in the St. Louis area, and, about a year later, they started training me to become a professional wrestler.

NW: Who trained you?

FB: I was trained by Wild Bill Longson, Everett Marshall, Steve Casey, Ray Eckert, and Warren Bockwinkel.

NW: Who did you admire while you were growing up?

FB: I admired all the topnotch guys. I visualized myself as being one of them.

NW: Did you pattern your wrestling style after anyone?

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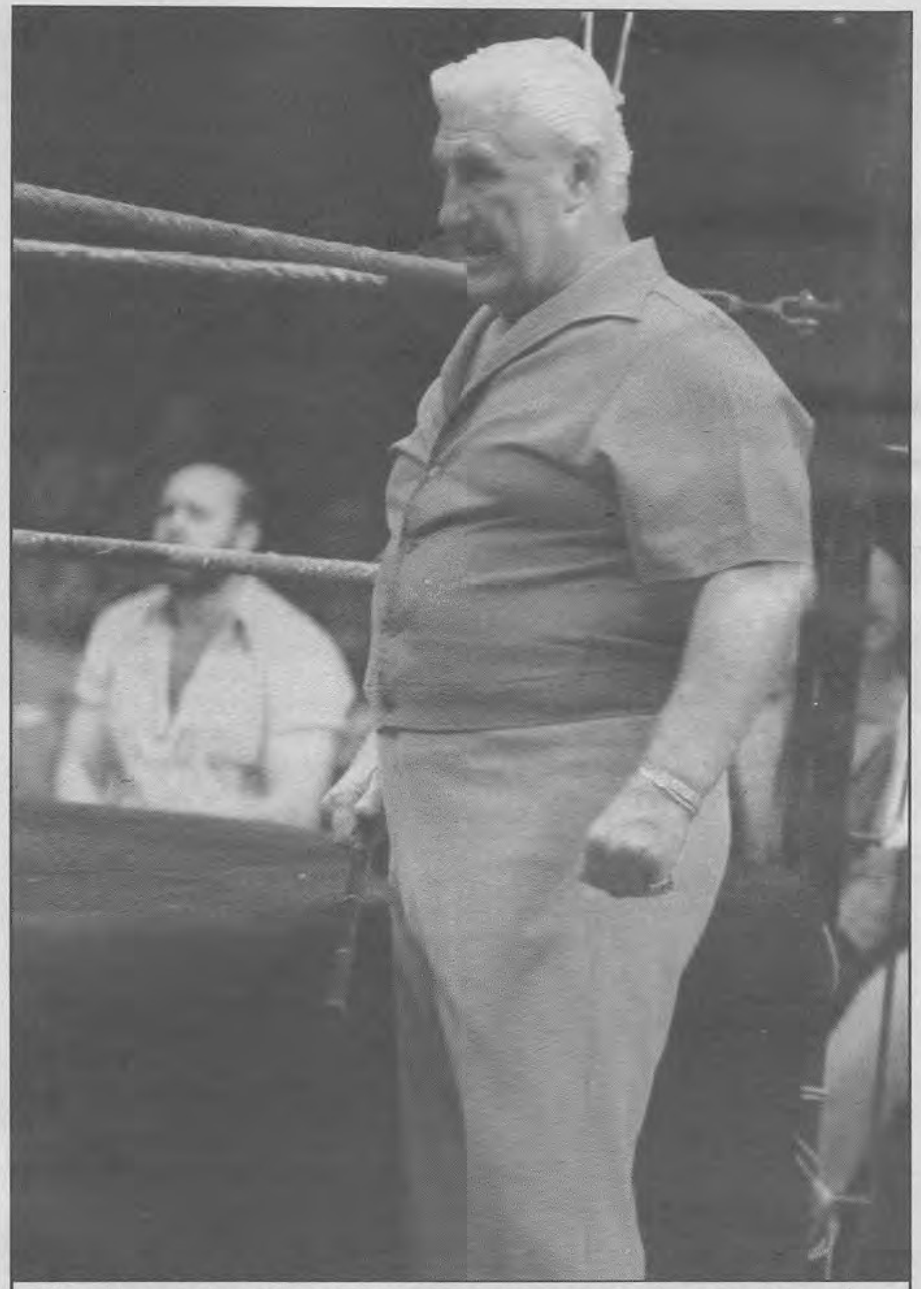
FB: I stole a little bit from every top wrestler. If I saw something that I thought I would like to do, I practiced that move until it became my own style.
NW: What was your strongest point as a wrestler?
FB: My strongest points were my determination to succeed and not being afraid of anyone.
NW: Who has been the strongest influence in your career?
FB: My stepfather has been the strongest influence. He encouraged me, and he always told me how great I was doing.
NW: Where have you wrestled overseas?
FB: I've wrestled just about every place you could mention.
NW: Who has been your toughest wrestling opponent?
FB: I think they all were tough. The fans loved to see someone beat me over the head with a two-by-four; I always tried to disappoint them.
NW: Do you think wrestling will ever have only one World champion?
FB: That would be impossible. Wrestling is not like any other sport. A wrestler is in the ring three or four times a week, and one wrestler could not possibly cover all that territory, which is the reason for having different organizations; however, there is always one organization that tops the list, and that's the WWF. Everyone knows who Hulk Hogan, Ultimate Warrior, "Macho Man" Randy Savage, and Ric Flair are. When you mention names like that, people know that you're speaking of the WWF.
NW: What is your height and weight?
FB: I am 5 feet, 11 inches tall, and I weigh 260 pounds.
NW: Do you have a workout schedule?
FB: I go to the gym 2-4 times a week. My workouts are nothing like the ones I did when I was younger, but I can still do a good workout.
NW: What was your first pro-wrestling match like?
FB: My first match was in East St. Louis, Illinois at the St. Paul Social Center. I was seventeen years old at the time, and my opponent was Billy Schbert. He turned me every way but loose. This event happened during the Great Depression. My wrestling license cost me five dollars. I was paid one dollar—the promoter got fifty cents, and I got the other fifty cents.
NW: How long have you been in the professional wrestling



Standing at ringside, manager Blassie was always ready to lend a helping hand to one of his evil henchmen. photo: Michael O'Hara

business?

FB: I have been in the wrestling profession for fifty-seven years. I wrestled for over four decades; the rest of the time, I was a wrestling manager. These past four years, I have been working in the WWF office — I'm the "Official WWF Prognosticator Extraordinaire."

NW: What has been your most embarrassing moment in professional wrestling?

FB: I'm not easily embarrassed, but there was one time in Omaha, Nebraska. It was during a big snowstorm. I arrived on a train from St. Louis that was delayed due to the weather.

The co-promoter met me at the station. Because we were behind schedule, he told me to change my clothes in the back seat of his car, so I did the best I could. He said that my opponent would be in the ring waiting for me, and he would bring my clothes into the dressing room.

I went to the center ring for the referee's instructions, walked back to my corner, and then took off my robe. The fans gave me the biggest reaction of my entire career. I forgot to put on my wrestling trunks!

NW: What do you think of the independent promotions?

FB: Well, some of them are necessary, and others shouldn't be in the business, because they do more harm than good. The wrestlers aren't making any money; I understand that the guys are just trying to get wrestling experience, but some of these promoters are worse than thieves.

NW: What has been the greatest moment in your career?

Freddie and partner Lonnie "Moondog" Mayne douple-teamed 601-pound Haystacks Calhoun in this classic 1973 slugfest! photo: Michael Rodgers

FB: My greatest moment was June 12, 1961. It was the first time I won the WWA World heavyweight title at the Sports Arena in Los Angeles. I defeated Eduoard Carpentier, and I will never forget that day.

NW: How has pro-wrestling changed over the years?

FB: Well, the WWF has done things that I used to say was impossible. I remember when they had their first Wrestlemania, and I said, "this won't draw a dime." Vince McMahon Jr. proved me wrong. Every time he would come up with another idea, I would think he was going to fall flat on his face. He has continuously proved me wrong. All I can say is that he is the greatest asset wrestling has ever had. I had wrestled for his

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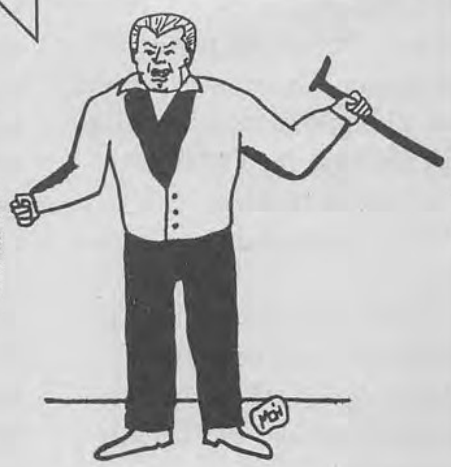


"The Classy One" and "The Hulkster" taunted the 38,000+ fans in attendance at the wrestling spectacular held at New York's Shea Stadium on August 8, 1980! photo: Michael O'Hara

grandfather, Jess McMahon, and his father, Vince McMahon Sr.; Vince McMahon Jr. is definitely the best promoter. They couldn't hold a candle to the "kid." All the wrestling records have been set by Vince McMahon Jr.

NW: Have you ever wrestled as part of a tag team?

FB: Yes, but not very much.

NW: Who were some of your tag-team partners?

FB: I had only a few tag-team matches. One of my partners was "Killer" Buddy Austin, and I had a couple of matches with Mike DiBiase, Ted's father. I prefer single matches.

NW: Do you admire any wrestlers today?

FB: Well, every time I look in the mirror, I see the greatest.

NW: Do you think the State Athletic Commissions benefit wrestlers?

FB: No. The only thing they're good at is collecting their percentage, getting free passes for their friends, and walking around ringside, so their buddies can see them. As far as doing anything for anyone, they do not contribute a thing.

NW: During your long career, how many injuries have you had?

FB: I've had 27 major operations, and all my injuries were from wrestling. I've had 16 knee operations; they completely replaced my knees. I had a total hip replacement on my left side, and I've lost my right kidney. I've broken every rib on my right side and five on my left side. I've had a broken neck, and I've lost 80% of my vision in my right eye. But aside from that, I guess I didn't do too bad.

NW: What are some of the titles that you have held?

FB: I held the WWA World heavyweight title five times. I also held the Southern heavyweight title for 3 1/2 years, the Texas State title, the Georgia heavyweight title, the West Coast heavyweight title, and the Hawaiian heavyweight title. I have also held every regional title, except the WWF heavyweight title.

NW: What advice would you give to the young rookies who are just starting out in wrestling?

FB: I would tell them that if they think they're going to make a lot of money, which many think they're going to do, that's a big mistake. They have to learn to do without. It's a hard road, and I wouldn't recommend it to anyone. One of my sons wanted to get into wrestling, but I changed

At Madison Square Garden, on December 26, 1983, "Ayatollah" Blassie brought the Iron Sheik to the highest of heights — a brief stint as the WWF World heavyweight champ! photo: Michael O'Hara

Blassie's 1982 Mutual Admiration Society — George "the Animal" Steele (right) and Killer Khan (left).

his mind in a hurry.

NW: What is your educational background?

FB: My education wasn't much. I went through grade school and two years of high school. When I was seventeen years old, I became a professional wrestler

NW: What do you do in your spare time?

FB: I participate in nonprofit fundraisers; I go to schools and speak to the youngsters about the dangers of taking drugs; I go to hospitals and visit with the sick and handicapped.

NW: What was your favorite finishing move?

FB: My favorite finish was the reverse spinning neckbreaker. I used it 98% of the time.

NW: What do you think it takes to be a successful wrestler?

FB: To be successful as a wrestler, you have to refuse to quit, and never let your shoulders be pinned to the mat!

NW: Do you think there should be any moves barred from professional wrestling?

FB: No, I don't think so. Some of the moves are more vicious than others, but if someone uses it on you, then you should be able to use it on them.

NW: Who do you think is the top wrestler today?

FB: Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Ultimate Warrior, and Bret Hart are all top wrestlers. Because they are so closely rated, I just can't pinpoint one top wrestler.

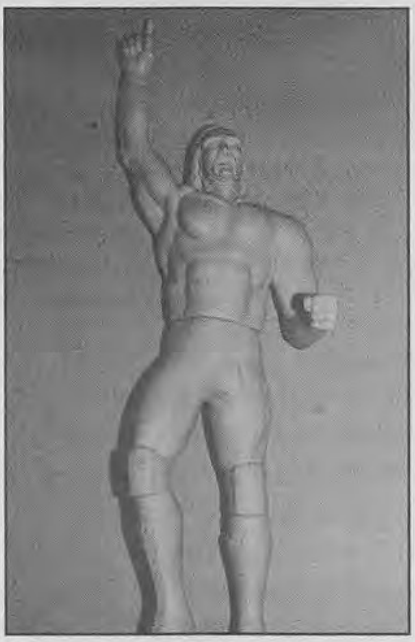
NW: Do you think cable TV and pay-per-view shows have helped or hurt wrestling?

FB: I think they have helped reach many people who are not able to see the live show. I think anything that publicizes wrestling is beneficial.

NW: Which wrestlers did you manage?

FB: I managed the Iron Sheik, Nicolai Volkoff, Spiros Arion, Waldo von Erich, Swede Hansen, Big John Studd, Kamala, Jesse "The Body" Ventura, Killer Khan, Mr. Fuji and Professor Tanaka, who won the World tag-team championship when I managed them, and Hulk Hogan.

Hogan and I were together for only a few months. He didn't approve of my tactics, and I made the biggest mistake of my life when I told him that if he didn't like my ways, then there's the door. Of course, he went on to become the most recognizable person in the pro-wrestling business.



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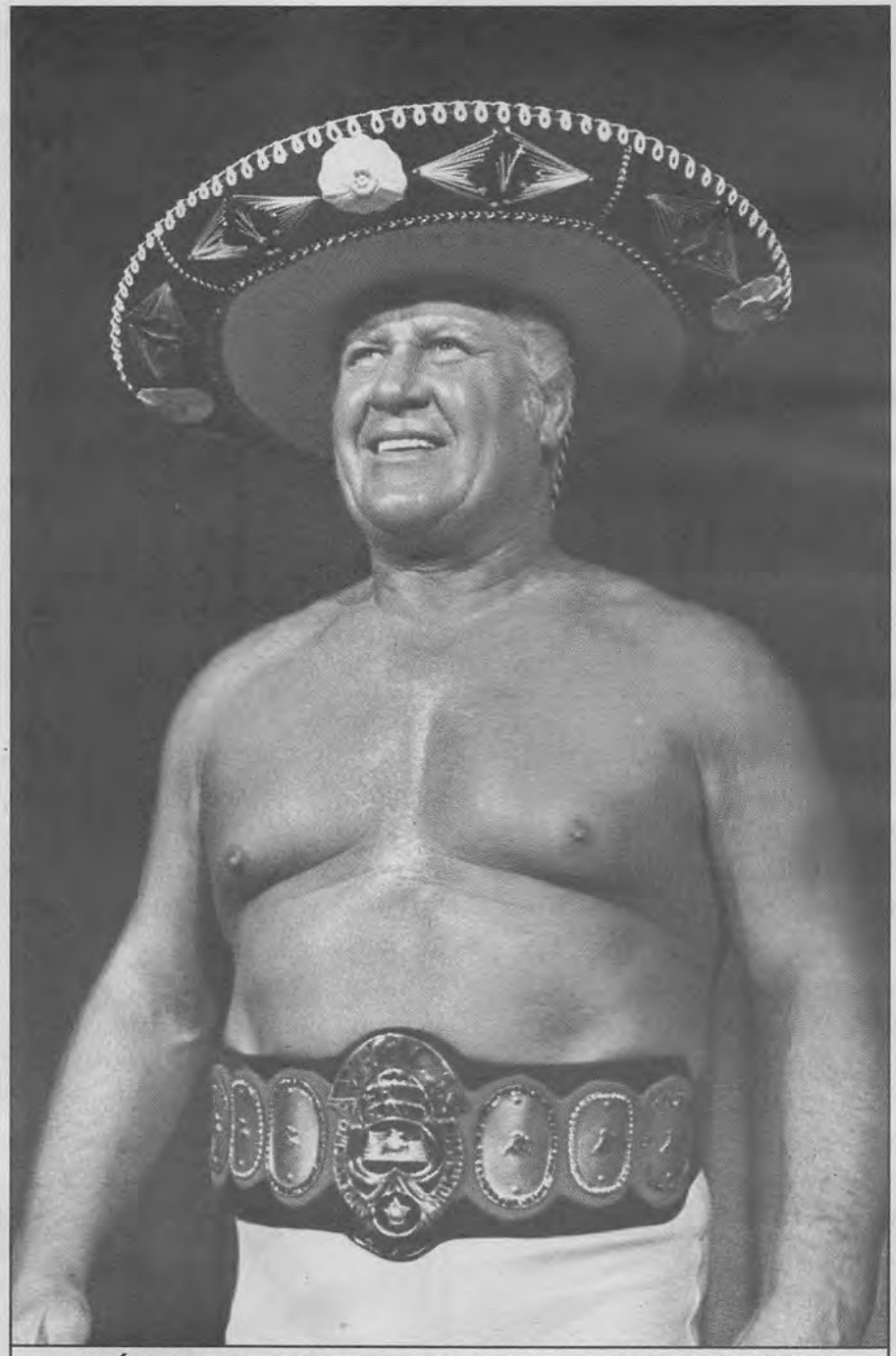
NW: What do you think of random drug testing?
FB: If a person wants to destroy their body, I'm not the one to say, "don't do it." If you're over twenty-one years old and want to do something, go ahead.
NW: Do you have any hobbies?
FB: Right now, it's going to the gym, sunbathing, and talking to pretty women. In fact, I have never seen an ugly woman.
NW: Do you have any brothers or sisters?
FB: No, I'm the only one. When they made me, they broke the mold.
NW: Are you married?
FB: Yes, I am married to a Japanese movie starlet. Her name is Miyako. I've been married eight times, and I'd like to get married eight more times!
NW: How many children do you have?
FB: I have two boys and one girl from my first marriage. Ron is a partner in a steel processing company in San Antonio, Texas. Gary is a horticulturist; he has won numerous awards for his landscaping. Cheryl is a teacher in St. Louis, Missouri.
NW: What kind of music do you enjoy listening to?
FB: I'm strictly one of those "stardust" boys.
NW: Who are some of your favorite singers?
FB: My favorite singers are Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, and Perry Como.
NW: What are your favorite foods?
FB: I like stuffed peppers, stuffed cabbage, barbecued ribs, and breaded pork chops.
NW: What do you watch on television?
FB: I watch wrestling, boxing, football, and all other sports.
NW: Do you have any closing words for this interview?
FB: I would just like to say that I was always proud to call myself a professional wrestler, and I'm still proud to say that I'm connected with the wrestling fraternity, especially the WWF.
NW: Thank you, Mr. Blassie, for this ***New Wave Wrestling*** interview. We wish you all the best.
FB: It's been my pleasure. ***NWW***



OLÉ! Making a 180-degree change in ring philosophy, "The Hollywood Fashionplate" found himself as one of the most popular Americas heavyweight champions in the history of the title. Fred is seen here wearing the strap (circa 1971). photo courtesy of Billie Jesse Collection

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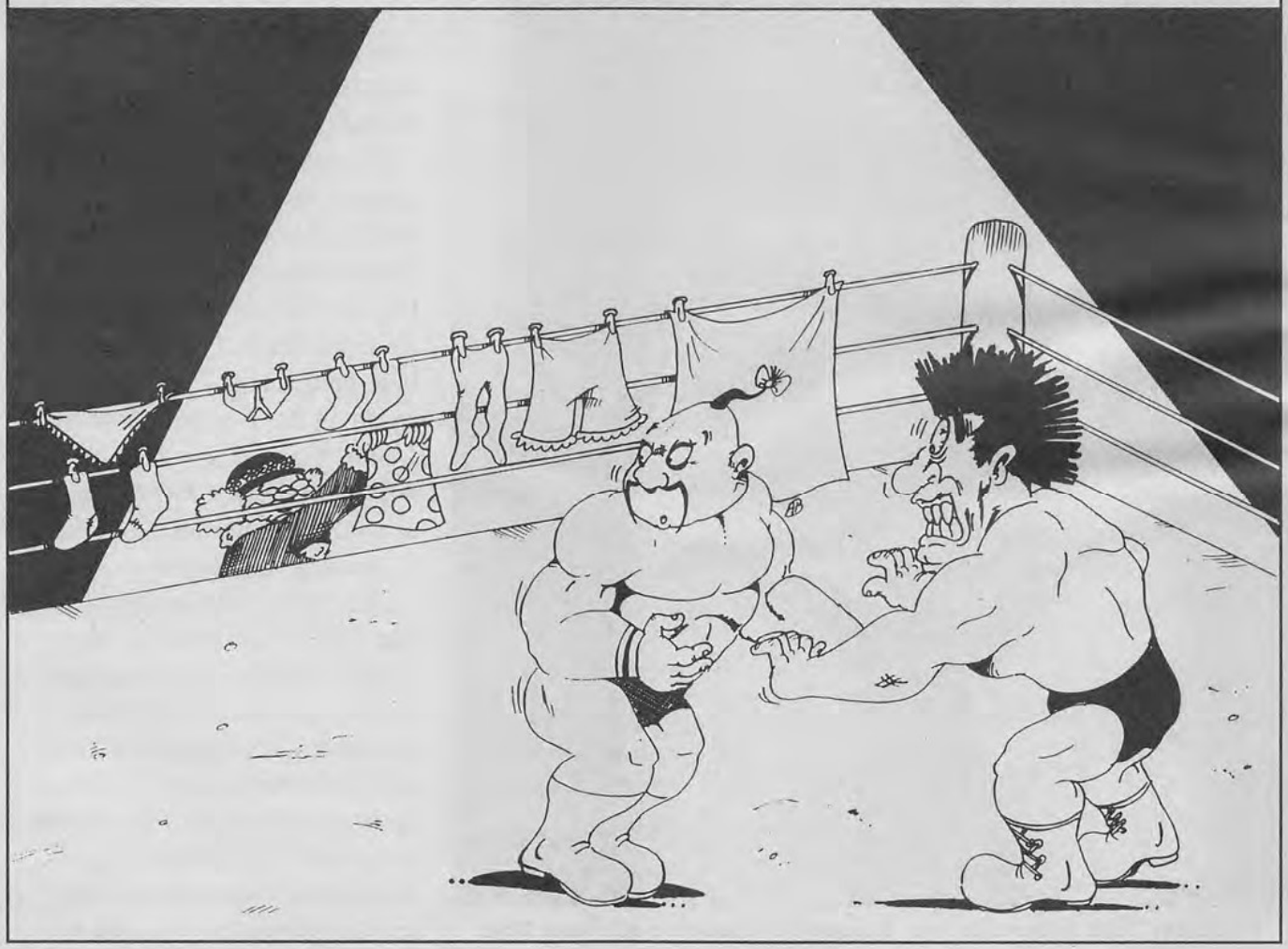

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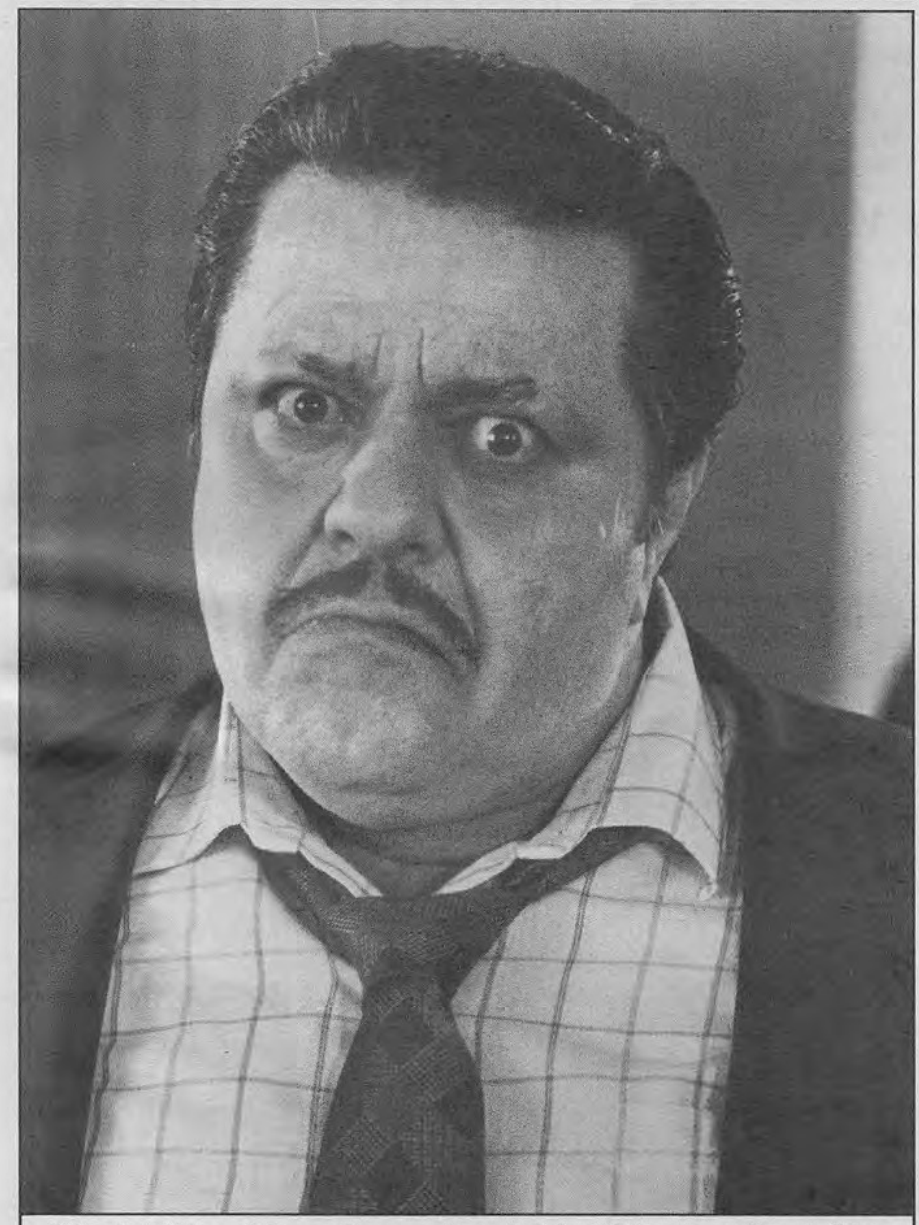


"Captain" Lou Albano is seen here in his 1986 role as Frank "the Fixer" in the Brian DiPalma comedy, "Wise Guys." photo courtesy of MGM/UA Entertainment

by Michael O'Hara

Hey, gang! We're back again with a special look at the fearless grappling gladiators who have made the transition from the squared circle to the silver screen.

As was mentioned last month, Hulk Hogan had completed his latest motion picture called *Rough Stuff*, which was filmed in North Miami, Florida. This marks the Hulk's third starring role, and rumor has it that this film is a make–it–or–break–it situation for the former WWF World champion.

Of course, Hogan gained his greatest media attention in his initial motion-picture role as Thunderlips, the Mountain of Lust, in the now famous *Rocky III*. From there, he became a blue-chip celebrity with appearances on the *Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson, *The Late Show* with Joan Rivers, *PM Magazine*, as well as cameo roles on *The A-Team* and *Love Boat*.

Despite his demanding presence, Hulk has, thus far, been unable to make it beyond supporting character actor roles. His pilot TV series called *Goldie & The Bears* was never picked up by the networks. His starring roles in *No Holds Barred* and *Suburban Commando* did not set Hollywood on fire, and it still remains to be seen, if there is a vehicle suited for Hulk's

unique physical attributes. The big problem remains the lack of creativity on the part of the movie casting crowd, who refuse to take a chance on placing the six-foot-eight, three hundred pounder in roles other than those that are wrestling related.

The "Real American" is hopeful that his third film will be a charm, and in recent newspaper interviews, he has been very complimentary of the support he has received from his co-stars, Sherman "The Jeffersons" Hemsley, Robert Gorman, Austin Pendleton, and Madeline Zima.

The blond bomber is comfortable with the direction his career is taking, and he feels that *Rough Stuff* will be his breakthrough. "It's like the Right Guard commercials I did, where I'm pretty much Terry. 'Anything less would be uncivilized' — I mean, that's me," exclaimed the possessor of the pythons.

"People say, 'Oh, you haven't had acting lessons.' But I've been acting now for the last 18 years, in a different way, in the ring and in front of a live audience. This is just learning to ride a different bicycle. It's a natural extension of what I've been doing."

Hulk's future on the screen is shaky at best, but you have to give him credit for his intense determination to leap beyond the stereotypical movie roles that are offered to him.

Two mat men who have done quite well for themselves in the celluloid world are "Captain" Lou Albano and "Rowdy" Roddy Piper.

"Rowdy" Roddy Piper displayed his acting ability in the eerie 1988 sci-fi flick, "They Live."

The good Captain has been working in front of the cameras nonstop since 1984, when he made his music video debut in Cyndi Lauper's *Girls Just Want To Have Fun*. Since then, Lou has starred in his own TV series, *The Super Mario Brothers*, and he's also been featured in such movies as the very forgettable *Bodyslam*, and the enjoyable *Wise Guys*. On almost any given week, the explosive wild man can be seen on the New Jersey-based *Joe Franklin TV Show*.

Piper, as always, is the dark horse who miraculously makes the grade without much hoopla. He made his movie debut in the 1970s Henry Winkler comedy called *The One and Only*, which was loosely based on the career of "Gorgeous" George Wagner. Since that time, he's given some pretty impressive performances in such movies as *Hell Comes To Frogtown* and *Bodyslam*, as well as TV pilots like *The Highwayman*, and another pilot TV series with Jesse Ventura, called *Tag Team*, which unfortunately did not make it onto the ABC network's roster. Even in a *Love Boat Special*, Roddy was able to squeeze out some humor from an otherwise silly script. His role in the 1988 film, *They Live*, showed that he can certainly act, and of all the competitors actively pursuing a movie career, "Hot Rod" is ***New Wave Wrestling's*** best bet to make it big in front of the bright lights of the cinema world.

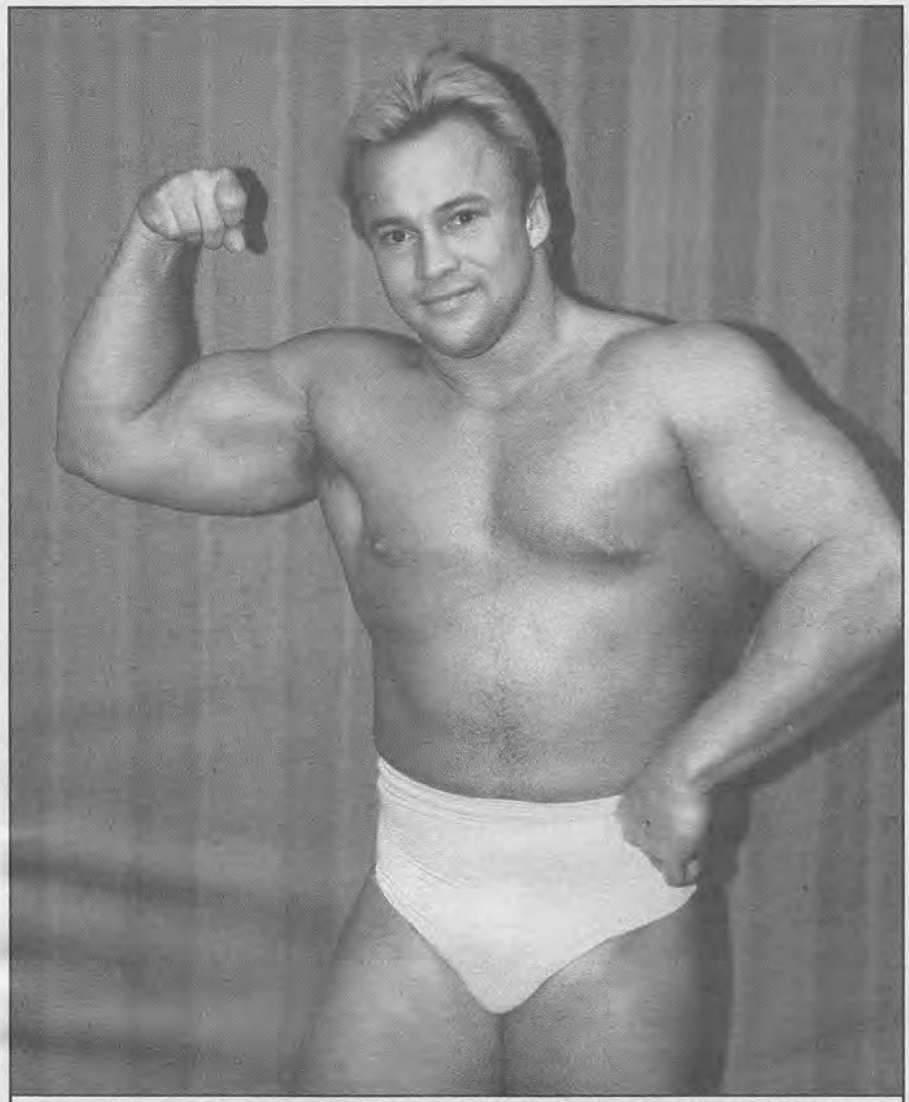
We've only glazed the tip of the iceburg in regard to the stars of the silver screen. Over the next few months, we'll look at other movie maulers, BUT, next month, we'll examine our most controversial exposé — Antonio Inoki's short-lived and incredibly secretive WWF World title reign! ***NWW***

RASSLE RAP

BART SAWYER

The TV Champion Speaks Out!

interview by Billie Jessee / photos by Jerry Wilson



Bart flexes a warning to all competitors in the Pacific Northwest. photo: Jerry Wilson

NW: Where are you from, Bart?
BS: I was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri.
NW: How old are you?
BS: I am twenty-seven years old. My birthday is November 30th.
NW: How long have you been a professional wrestler?
BS: This is my fifth year in this business.
NW: How did you get started in professional wrestling?
BS: From the very beginning, attending the shows promoted by Bill Watts, Leroy McQuirk, and Bob Geigle was a real plus for me. One night, I was at a Geigle show in southern Missouri, and Bob asked me if I'd ever considered wrestling. He told me he was training some guys that Thursday afternoon; if I thought I had what it takes, to come by and give it a try. So I did.
NW: Who trained you?
BS: I was trained by Sonny Meyers and Bob Geigle.
NW: When did you make your pro-wrestling debut?
BS: It was on April 22, 1988. I was in a match against Johnny Angel; he busted me open, but I won the match and the Arkansas heavyweight title.
NW: Do you have any amateur wrestling background?
BS: I really don't have any amateur wrestling background. I did play football in high school; I also did some powerlifting.
NW: Where did you go to school?
BS: I attended Reed Spring High School in southern Missouri, and then I went to Missouri Southern State College. I graduated from there with a degree in Radio and Television.
NW: Have you wrestled under any other name?
BS: Yes. I originally started out as Steve Sawyer. When I first wrestled in Portland, Oregon, I had spiked blond hair and a very strong rapport with the kids. One of the wrestlers on the circuit referred to me as a cross between Bart Simpson and Li'l Abner; somehow, the kids picked up on it, and they all started calling me Bart. Finally, about two years ago, I told Don Owens to call me Bart. The kids like it.

NW: Who has been a major influence in your career?
BS: I would have to say Bob Geigle, Eddie Gilbert, and Mike George were major influences.
NW: Which wrestlers did you admire while you were growing up?
BS: I admired Mike George, Eddie Gilbert, and The Fantastics. When you get in the ring with some of these wrestlers that you grew up watching, it's really an incredible experience.
NW: Did you pattern your style of wrestling after anyone?
BS: No, it just came to me. The scientific aerial style seems to work for me. If I have to, I can punch, kick, chop, and do all the other dirty moves, but I'd rather get out there and hook and roll with someone.
NW: What do you think is your strongest point as a wrestler?
BS: My strongest point is my aerial ability. I can fly with the best of the junior heavyweights, but I'm still thick enough to hang in there and brawl with the heavyweights.

NW: Have you had the opportunity to wrestle overseas?
BS: Yes, I have recently worked with Oriental Pro Wrestling. It's a new promotion that has just opened, and one of their scouts was here in the Northwest. They are based in Tokyo, Japan, and their first show was held this past July.
NW: Who has been your toughest wrestling opponent?
BS: So far, I would have to say Jerry Lawler has been my toughest opponent.
NW: How often do you train?
BS: I try to train five or six times a week, at least one or two hours each time.
NW: What is your height and weight?
BS: I'm five feet, eight inches tall, and I weigh 230 pounds.
NW: Do you like working on the independent circuit?
BS: Yes, I do. I've had very good experiences working with the independent promotions. Pacific Northwest, now called Championship Wrestling USA, is considered an independent promotion as well. We all have to start somewhere. Not many wrestlers get the opportunity to wrestle in the WWF or WCW in their very first professional-wrestling match.
NW: What has been a memorable wrestling moment for you?
BS: I was in the USWA for a brief time. While I was there, my partner, Doug Masters, and

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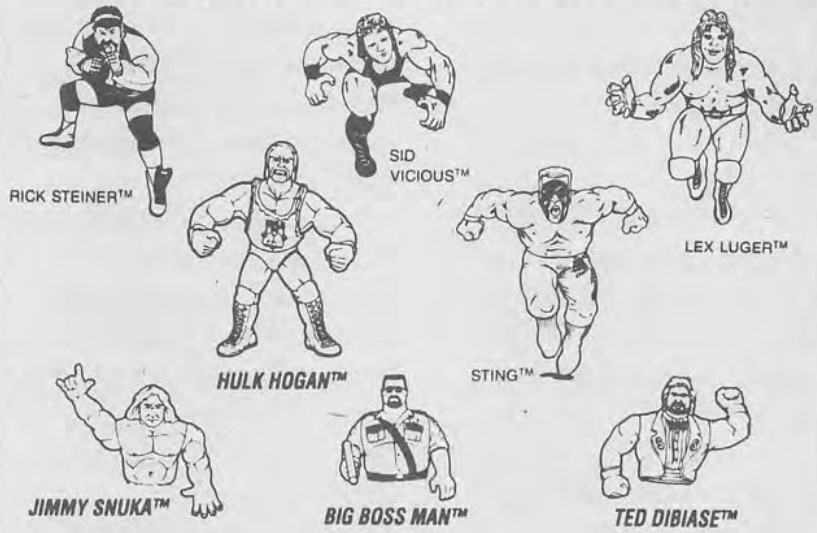

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I won the USWA tag-team titles. We won the tag-team belts under questionable circumstances, and I'm not really proud of that fact. Someone once said: "The end justifies the means." Well, we were the World champions, but I'm still not proud of the way things happened.

The thing I'm most proud of is my rapport with the kids. I was also the Grand Marshal for the Oregon State Special Olympics, and as far as the kids go in that area, the two names they recognize the most are Hulk Hogan and Bart Sawyer. The way it is today, I'm just happy to be able to make a living in this business.

NW: Who have been some of your tag-team partners?

BS: Doug Masters was my partner in the USWA; when I just began wrestling, I had the opportunity to team up with Ricky Morton, which was an incredible experience for me; Steve Doll was also a partner of mine, and he has been one of my favorite guys to work with.

NW: Have you had any serious injuries?

BS: Right now, I'm recovering from a minor concussion and neck injury. Other than that, I have only had the regular bumps and bruises that you get in this business.

NW: Where are you working now?

BS: I'm wrestling in Portland, Oregon, and I hold the area's TV championship. It used to be the Don Owens promotion. Now, it's Sandy Barr's Championship Wrestling USA. I am currently negotiating with the USWA, and I'm doing work in Japan. Someday, I may be wrestling in the WWF or WCW. I just want to say that I don't see any wrestlers in either promotion, especially in the junior heavyweights, who scare me at all. I've been ranked as one of the top junior heavyweights, and nothing would thrill me more than a chance to prove that I'm the best.

NW: What do you think it takes to be a successful wrestler?

BS: It takes dedication and strength — not so much physical strength, but the strength that comes from inside of you.

NW: What is your favorite finishing move?

BS: My favorite finishing move is the dropkick.

NW: Who do think is tops in wrestling today?

BS: As far as I'm concerned, they don't come any better than Arn Anderson and Ric Flair.

NW: What do you think of professional wrestling shown on cable TV and pay-per-view shows?

BS: There is an oversaturation of professional wrestling on cable television, and I think it has hurt us. It's great if you're a star in the WWF or WCW, but if you're not, it makes it that much harder to break into the business. Basically, it has killed the old-style local promotions.

NW: Do you think the wrestling promoters should have random drug testing?

BS: If you sign a contract with a promotion that says if you wrestle for them, you can't use steroids, then you shouldn't use them.

I think it is a personal decision.

Doug Masters and Bart enjoyed a successful stint as USWA tag-team champions. photo: Jerry Wilson

As long as it is legal, I think you should have the right to do what you want. You can't show me any profession where everyone in that profession is totally clean. People are people.

NW: When you're not wrestling, what do you like to do?

BS: I usually lift weights.

NW: What kind of music do you enjoy listening to?

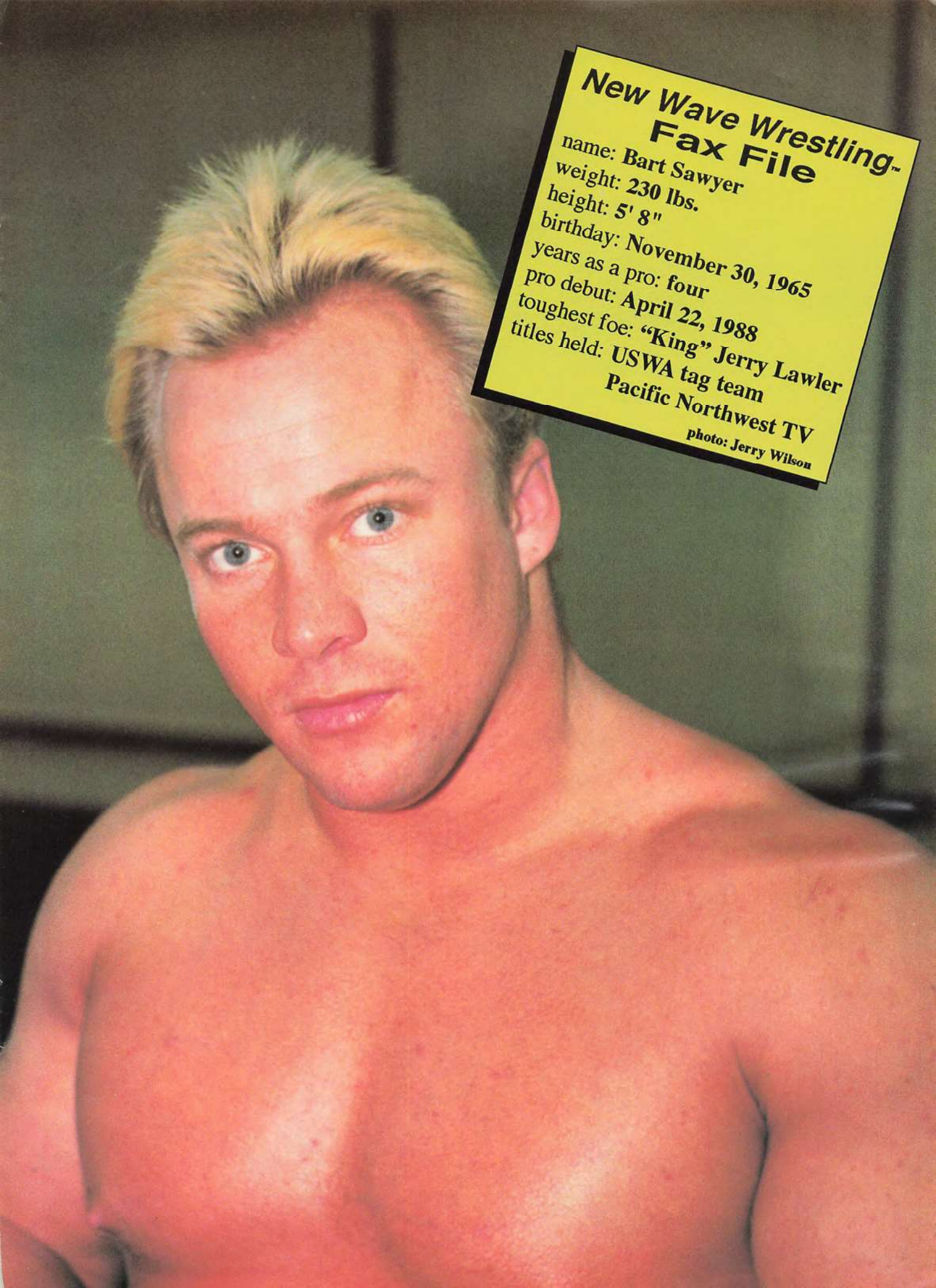
BS: I like everything. I was a disc jockey in college, so I developed an appreciation for all kinds of music.

NW: What are some of your favorite foods?

BS: I love Italian food, especially pasta and lasagna.

NW: Thank you, Bart, for this interview. Good luck in your career.

BS: It was my pleasure. ***NWW***



New Wave Wrestling™ Fax File

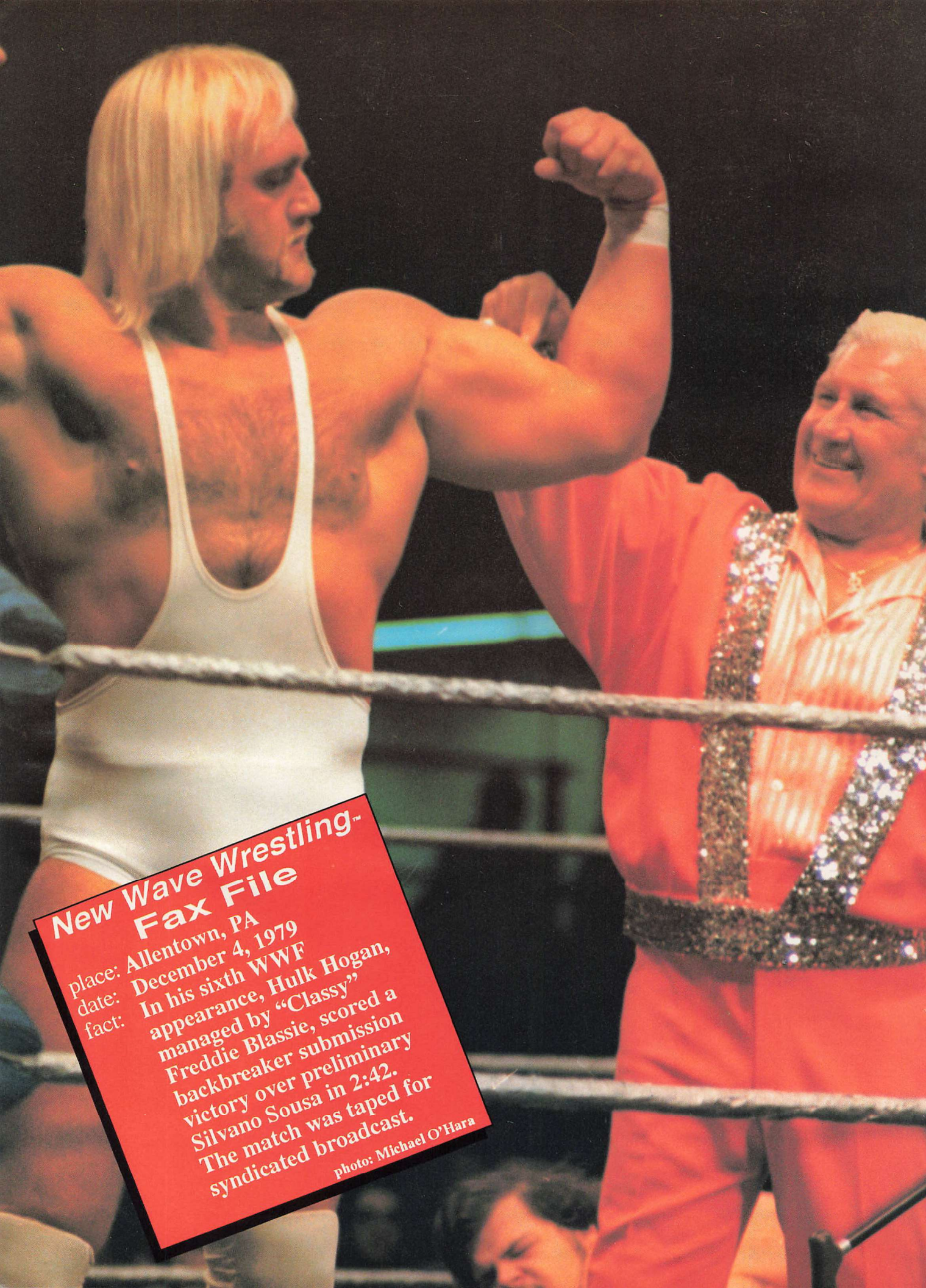
name: **Bart Sawyer**
weight: **230 lbs.**
height: **5' 8"**
birthday: **November 30, 1965**
years as a pro: **four**
pro debut: **April 22, 1988**
toughest foe: **"King" Jerry Lawler**
titles held: **USWA tag team**
Pacific Northwest TV

photo: Jerry Wilson

New Wave Wrestling Fax File

name: **Linda Dallas**
weight: **109 lbs.**
height: **5' 4 1/2"**
trained by: **"Killer" Kowalski**
years as a pro: **eight**
toughest opponents:
Misty Blue, Kat LeRoux, Magnificent Mimi, and Madusa Miceli

photo: Jon Simmes



New Wave Wrestling™ Fax File

place: Allentown, PA
date: December 4, 1979
fact: In his sixth WWF appearance, Hulk Hogan, managed by "Classy" Freddie Blassie, scored a backbreaker submission victory over preliminary Silvano Sousa in 2:42. The match was taped for syndicated broadcast.

photo: Michael O'Hara

Warrior Woman

LINDA DALLAS

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Brazen rulebreaking has put Linda Dallas in her own special wrestling category. Using some questionable tactics, this feisty Texan is always ready to accept any challenge — no matter how big!

NW: Linda, how long have you been a professional wrestler?
LD: I've been a professional wrestler for eight years.
NW: What is your height and weight?
LD: I am four feet, eleven and one-half inches tall, and I weigh in at 109 pounds.
NW: Who trained you?
LD: I was trained by Walter "Killer" Kowalski for eighteen months at his school in Massachusetts. He also trained my sister, "Mad Dog" Debbie.

From time to time, I still go back to school for more training. I feel that there is always something new for me to learn.
NW: How old were you when you started training?
LD: I was eighteen years old when I started training with "Killer" Kowalski. He saved me from getting married, fat, drunk, and being a loser! (ha, ha) I will always be grateful to him.
NW: What were you doing before that time?
LD: I was in the U.S. Army, but they politely asked me to leave after one year. I just wasn't Army material.
NW: Why was that?
LD: I had a bad temper. My sister, Debbie, and I were raised in foster homes. For eleven years, we were constantly being bounced around from foster home to foster home. When I became seventeen years old, I enlisted in the Army. I just was not ready for it.
NW: Why did you choose to go into professional wrestling?
LD: It's a perfect career for me; I can be as rowdy as I please, plus I get paid for it. Another benefit is that I get to travel for free.
NW: Where have you traveled?
LD: I've wrestled in Japan, Europe, Puerto Rico, Grenada, Cayman Islands, Bahamas, and Bermuda.
NW: Where did you enjoy wrestling the most?
LD: I enjoyed working in Puerto Rico. There is plenty of wrestling action there, and that makes it my kind of place!

The most beautiful places to work were in the Bahamas and Bermuda.
NW: Do you enjoy working on the independent circuit?
LD: I love being on the road. Sometimes, it gets tiresome, but most of the time, I love it.
NW: Where did you have your pro-wrestling debut?
LD: My professional debut was at the Mecca Arena in Minnesota. The arena had an audience of twelve thousand people, and I was scared. At that time, I didn't know how to work with the fans. Today, I know how to get them all fired up!
NW: Who have been some of your opponents?
LD: I've wrestled against Kat

LeRoux, Madusa Miceli, Heidi Lee Morgan, Reggie Bennett, Magnificent Mimi, and Misty Blue.

NW: How would you rate them as wrestlers?

LD: I'm glad Kat LeRoux is my partner now. I wouldn't want to face her in the ring again.

Madusa Miceli is pretty darn tough! She's a fantastic wrestler, and she was a real challenge for me.

Heidi Lee Morgan is also a great wrestler. She takes a lot of punishment in her matches. She is too bubbly and happy for my taste.

Reggie Bennett is a big woman in wrestling. Real big (ha, ha). I do not think she has any real talent as a wrestler.

Magnificent Mimi is okay. She knows how to take care of herself in the ring. She doesn't talk much, though.

People always want to know why Misty Blue and I fight so much. Well, promoters know a good match when they see one. I've made more money wrestling against Misty than all other opponents combined! Personally, I think she's too nice. She should loosen up a little.

NW: Do you have a favorite wrestler?

LD: Ric Flair has always been my greatest inspiration. He is everything that a great wrestler should be: graceful, scientific, and downright ruthless!

NW: What do you think of the independent promotions?

LD: I think they are the future of wrestling; they give new talent a chance to develop and grow. All future wrestling stars get their start in the independent promotions.

NW: What is your favorite wrestling move?

LD: My favorite move is the *Octopus*, which is the Japanese version of the grapevine.

NW: How do you keep in top physical condition?

LD: I do aerobic exercises, such as bicycling. It's very important to me that I keep in good shape.

NW: What are your future plans in this business?

LD: Well, Kat LeRoux and I have a good tag-team partnership going. It looks like we will be sticking together for a long time.

Before I retire from professional wrestling, I would like to wrestle for the WWF. I do not want a big contract, just one match would be enough. I've wrestled for the AWA, NWA/WCW, and just about everywhere else, except the WWF. No wrestling career is complete without wrestling for the WWF.

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NW: Thank you, Linda, for this interview. We wish you all the best in your career.

LD: Thank you. ***NWW***

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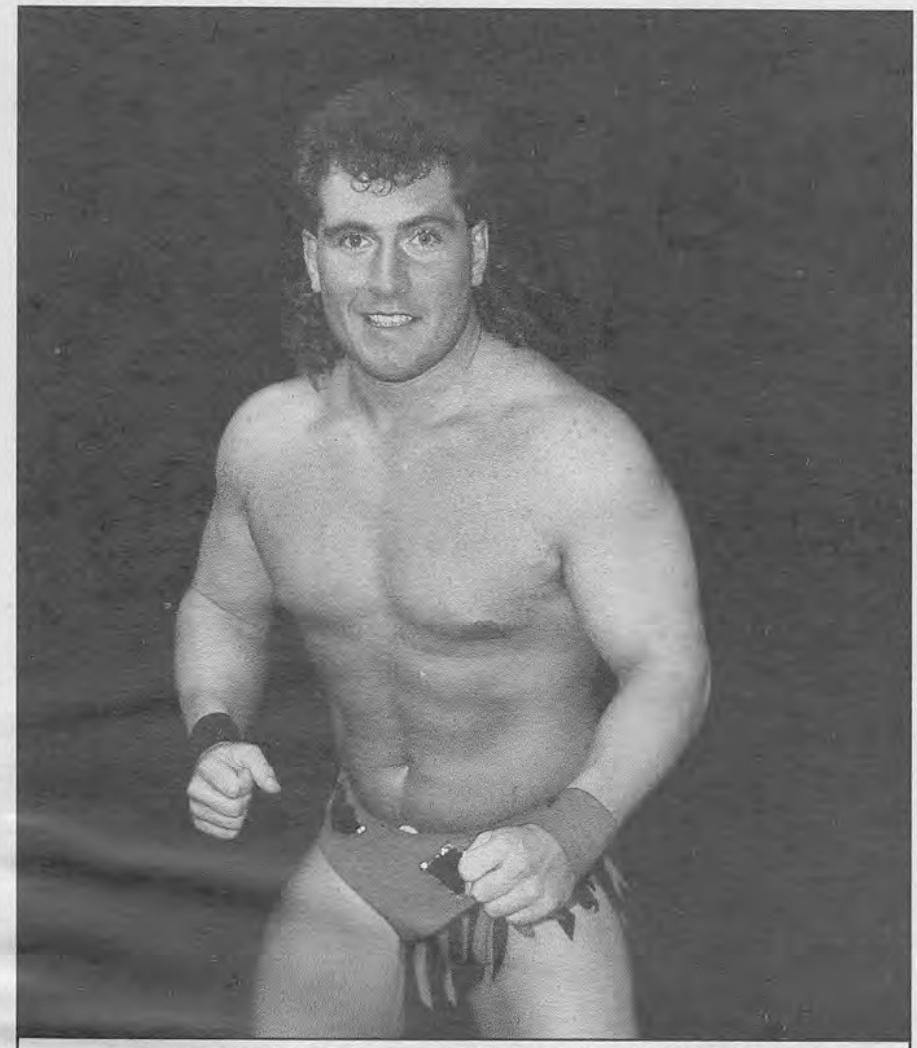
The INDEPENDENT Scene

compiled by Michael O'Hara



Reno Riggins has come of age on the USWA circuit (Memphis, Tennessee). photo: Jerry Wilson

• **ALL–STAR (Georgia):** Tommy "Wildfire" Rich has been headlining here. His most recent opponents have been Steve "the Brawler" Lawler, the Ex-Convicts, and Jimmy Golden. Other wrestling stars include: Ray Candy, Scott Studd, "Jumping" Joey Maggs, Rod Cowan, the Jailhouse Rocker, and Lee Thomas.

• **CW–USA:** Sandy Barr's Northwest continues its talent exchange with *Ryuma Go's Oriental Wrestling*, based in Japan...Currently on the circuit: the Bruise Brothers (Ron & Don Harris, who might be WWF bound), Billy Two Eagles, Jim & Karl Pope, Damian Knight, Bart Sawyer, Jesse Barr, John Rambo, Al Madril, Buddy Wayne, and Mike Winner.

• **BIG–D (Dallas, Texas):** Promoter/wrestler Chris Adams is running shows throughout the "Lone Star State." Chris has been seeing action against Rod Price and "Iceman" King Parsons...Chris' wife, Toni, has been feuding with Tasha Simone...Others in the region include: Action Jackson, Gary "Hog" Young, Terry Simmes, and Scott Braddock.

• **ECW:** Don "the Rock" Muraco defeated Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka for the ECW HC in Philadelphia, PA. Snuka is now competing as a villain. Others on the circuit include: the Rockin' Rebel, the Cream Team (Rip Sawyer & Dave Casanova), Ivan Koloff, Jimmy Jannetty, the Wolfman, Glen Osborne, J.T. Smith, Mr. Sandman, Johnny Hotbody, Larry Winters, Tommy Cairo, Sal Bellomo, and Tony Stetson.

• **GWF:** This Dallas, Texas-based group currently recognizes the following champions: Light-heavyweight champion–Mike Dahl, TV HC–Michael Worthington Davis III, and GWF TTC–the Rough Riders (Black Bart & Johnny Mantell)...Rod Price and the Patriot are feuding over the GWF North American championship....Bobby Duncum Junior made his debut in the area and is said to show promise... GWF wrestling stars include: "Ragin' Bull" Manny

Fernandez, Skandor Akbar, Alex Porteau, the Ebony Experience, Steven Dane, Chaz Taylor, Manny Villalobos, "Big" John Hawk, Dusty Wolfe, Kit Carson, Steve Simpson, and "Killer" Tim Brooks.

• **ICWA:** "Nasty" Ned Brady defeated Lou Perez for the ICWA HC in Tampa, FL! Bob Cook is feuding with Colt Steele. ICWA tag-team champions — the Terminators have been holding back the challenges of Allan Iron Eagle and Dean Malenko. Kevin Sullivan has been battling Hercules (Ray Hernandez) in most of the recent ICWA main events. The Tennessee Stud made his return to the region in classic style by pinning Robbie Idol in 30 seconds. Others under the ICWA banner include: El Lazortron, Tommy Starr, the Southern Posse, the Cuban Assassin (David Sierra), and "Gigolo" Jimmy Backlund.

• **IWA:** This Pennsylvania group plays host to a fine assortment of seasoned and rookie talent. We are not aware of their champions as we go to press; however, the following wrestlers have appeared on recent cards: Preston Steele, Scott Summers, Tracy Smothers, the Big Cheeses, Ivan and Vladimir Koloff, and midgets Butch Cassidy and Li'l Chuckie.

• **PWF:** PWF heavyweight champion–the Italian Stallion continues to turn back all challengers... George South holds the PWF junior-heavyweight strap...Other PWF stars include: the Outlaw, the Cruel Connection, and Scotty McKeever.

• **SMW:** "Southern Boy" Tracy Smothers is in..."Rugged" Ron Garvin is feuding with Paul Orndorff after he destroyed one of Mr. Wonderful's robes...Jim Cornette's Heavenly Bodies ("Sweet" Stan Lane & Dr. Tom Prichard) are feuding with the Rock & Roll Express (Robert Gibson & Ricky Morton) for the Smoky Mountain tag straps... The Mongolian Mauler abruptly left the promotion, and he is currently on tour in Europe... The Master (Kevin Sullivan) is managing the Night Stalker (Bryan Clark) and the Grim Reaper...Tim Horner is feuding with the Dirty White Boy (Tony Anthony). Some of the other featured competitors include: "Killer" Kyle, the Fantastics, and Dutch Mantell.

Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka has returned to his rule-breaking style on the ECW circuit in Philadelphia, PA. photo: Jon Simmes

• **SPW:** Rico Fredrico is the SPW champion....This Florida league is quickly reaching new heights for shenanigans with their wrestlers using such disreputable names as Randy "the Hulk" Hogan, Barry "the Hammer" Valentine, and "Hacksaw" Driggers — Shame, shame on you!

• **SWF:** "Golden Boy" Jerry Grey continues to hold the SWF championship...Veteran Bugsy McGraw is the main-event star of this group.

• **USWA:** Todd Champion was given the USWA World title after the champ, Butch Reed, quit the promotion...Brian Christopher (the son of Jerry Lawler) regained the GWF light-heavyweight championship from "Nightmare" Danny Davis in Memphis...Eddie and Doug Gilbert are now hearing cheers since beginning their feud with the Moondogs...WWF wrestlers, who were appearing as part of an alleged talent exchange, have not been on the circuit in recent weeks, although Jeff Jarrett is expected to see action in both USWA &WWF rings in the near future...Kevin Lawler (Jerry's youngest son) is currently working spot shows in Texas as the Southern Rebel, and he is expected to appear on the Memphis circuit by Christmas time... The Howard-Hughes Connection is comprised of Howard Jeffrey Gaylord (Jeff Gaylord) and Mr. Hughes (formerly of WCW fame).

• **WIN:** As we go to press, a tournament is underway to crown the first WIN tag-team champs. Included in the elimination contest: the Cream Team, the Lords of Darkness, Beauty & the Beast (Adrian Hall and Morgus the Maniac), the Lethal Weapons (Tommy Rose and Johnny Rotten), and Don Muraco & Axl Rotten...A.C. Golden holds the WIN heavyweight championship...Ivan Koloff, the Lightning Kid, Mario Savoldi, and the Honky Tonk Man have also seen action in recent months.

• **WWA:** "Pretty Boy" Larry Sharpe and Dennis Coraluzzo are running live wrestling events in conjunction with their training schools (the Monster Factory I & II), which are located in New Jersey and Florida. Victor Rivera Jr., Boy Gone Bad, the Lords of Darkness, Abdullah Singh, and the Spider are some of the athletes seeing action under this banner.

Brian Chriptopher is one of the many young lions on the USWA horizon. photo: Jerry Wilson

• **CURFEW NOTES:** Angelo Poffo, the father of Lanny "the Genius" Poffo and Randy "Macho Man" Savage, has opened his World Alliance Wrestling Training Gym at 12920 Walsingham Road in Largo, Florida. Graduates of the school will appear on Poffo's upcoming cable TV wrestling program.

Angelo, who is now in his 60s, continues to wrestle spot shows as the masked Miser, and, at one time, he held the world's record for consecutive situps — 6,033 (a number he had stitched on to all of his ring trunks).

Kerry and Kevin von Erich are expected to revive their old Dallas, Texas circuit in January, 1993...Nicolai Volkoff has been appearing at baseball card/sports autograph shows in the Northeast... Maryland's Mid-Eastern Wrestling Federation has featured some heavy hitters as of late. They include "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert, the Honky Tonk Man, Ivan "the Russian Bear" Koloff, and ladies Heidi Lee Morgan and Rusty "the Fox" Thomas. ***NWW***

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Jeni Moskalik (age 12), 5120 Grosvenor Circle Roseville, CA 95746 Favorites: the British Bulldog, Bret Hart, Sting, Roddy Piper, Rick Rude, and the Ultimate Warrior.

David Ronan (13), 12 Mills Hill Rd., Middleton, Manchester, M24-2EE, U.K. Wanted: U.S. fans of British Bulldog, Ultimate Warrior, & Undertaker.

John Papillon (28), 12562 Nelson St., Apt. 301, Garden Grove, CA 92640—Wanted: Female WWF fans.

Robert Costanzo (24), 1068 E. 3rd St., Brooklyn, NY 11230-3339—Favorites: Hulk Hogan, Roddy Piper, Sting, and the Undertaker.

John Hatchell (9),39 Wince Close, Alkrington, Middleton, Manchester, M24-1UJ, U.K.—Wanted: Male pen pals (7-11) who are fans of all WWF heroes.

Robin Connor (27), 3057 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217–Wanted: Nasty Boys, Shawn Michaels, & Barry Windham fans.

Jason Edwards (15), 102 Strong Circle, Huntsville, AL 36802–Favorites: WCW, WWF, GWF, and IWGP promotions.

Rachel Fairbrother (14),10 Hawthorne St., Newfoundpool, Leicester, LE3 9FQ, U.K.–Wanted: Pen pals (14+) who like Bret Hart, Mr. Perfect, Ric Flair, and Shawn Michaels.

Lukas Welburn (13), 671 East Main St., Middletown, CT 06457–Favorites: Koko B. Ware, the Harts, Jim Neidhart, and Crush.

Stella Rodriguez (19), 1444 W. Cortez, Chicago, IL 60622—Favorites: Repo Man, Sting, Ultimate Warrior, and Bobby Heenan.

Michael Bachmann (15), Fossfeld 4a, 6431 Hauneck 1, Germany—Wanted: Pen pals (14+) who are fans of the WWF bad guys.

Petrina Harridine (19), 15 Croft Way, Weedon, Northampton, NN7 4QX, U.K. Wanted: Fans of the WWF and WCW.

Charles Bokoskie (41),1775 S. 20th Ave., #108, Safford, AZ 85546-4058–Favorites: Sting, Ultimate Warrior, Steiner Brothers, and Dustin Rhodes.

Matthew Caracappa (15), 91 Elder Ave., Staten Island, NY 10309–Favorites: WWF wrestlers.

Stephen Sigley (22), 541 Watling St., Mile Oak, Tamworth, Staffs, B78 3NF, U.K.–Favorites: Big Daddy (U.K.), Nick Bockwinkel, Buddy Rogers, Lou Thesz, and Barry Douglas (U.K.).

Vincent Camarillo Jr. (24), Rt. 1, Box 170-B, Mercedes, TX 78570–Wanted: Fans of the Von Erichs, Ultimate Warrior, and Sunshine.

Steven Eisenach (36), 244 1/2 South Park St., Fond Du Lac, WI 54935–Favorites: Ultimate Warrior, Sting, Steiners, & the British Bulldog.

Charissa Pickering (19), 60 London Ct., Merrimack, NH 03054 –Wanted: Pen pals (12-30) who are Bret Hart, Roddy Piper, Hulk Hogan, and Randy Savage fans.

Monika Hermenau (36), Pariser Str. 6, 1000 Berlin 15, Germany—Favorites: Bret Hart & L.O.D.

Rob Nibbert (27), 22 Northwood Dr., Brampton, Ontario, L6X-2L2, Canada. Favorites: Mr. Perfect, Papa Shango & Ultimate Warrior.

Renee Alcantara (22), 3395 Tanager Ln. W., Mulberry, FL 33860–Favorites: Ric Flair, the Beverly Brothers, and the Steiner Brothers.

Barbara Wolfenbarger (22) RR1, Box 38, Chester, VT 05143-9711—Favorites: Flyin' Brian, Steiners, and Marcus A. Bagwell.

Ahmad Noorani (36), Box 41304, Gaborone, Botswana, Southern Africa–Favorites: Ultimate Warrior & Sting, Bret Hart, and L.O.D.

Ed Rokose (age 14), 15 Markham Road Edison, NJ 08817 Wanted: Male or female pen pals (13–15) who are WWF fans!

Martin Messina (44), 8800 E. Harry St. #506, Wichita, KS 67207-4692—Favorite Promotions: WWF, WCW, GWF, USWA, UCW, and All-Japan!

Linda Doan (37), RR #4, Durham, Ontario, NOG IRO, Canada –Wanted: Pen pals (25+) who are Hulk Hogan & Roddy Piper fans.

Clemmie Woodfork III (26), 13303 Manchester, Grandview, MO 64030. Favorites: Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan & British Bulldog!

Andrea Treweeke (22), 5 Worsley, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE2 5QR, U.K. Favorites: Ultimate Warrior, Ric Flair, and Bret Hart.

Robby Elliot (11), 2449 Adams Ave., Ashland, KY 41102 –Wanted: Randy Savage, Roddy Piper & Sting fans.

Steve Ferrari (13), 16 Onyx Terrace, North Haledon, NJ 07508-Wanted: Fans (12-14) of Sting & Undertaker.

Nadia Alkoc (12), 14 Spens Crescent, Perth, PH1 1PE, Scotland-Favorites: Shawn Michaels, Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, and Randy Savage.

Joanne Ng (16), Blk 13, Dover Close East, #24-216, Singapore 05-13–Favorites: Shawn Michaels, Marty Jannetty & Bret Hart.

William Jones (13), Rt. 1, Box 993, Hayes, VA 23072 Favorites: Marcus Bagwell, Barry Windham & Sting!

Ericia Holcomb (21), 5384 Hollister #1, Santa Barbara, CA 93111–Favorites: Bret & Owen Hart & Randy Savage.

Corinna Huber (22), Hauptstrasse 26, W-7901 Staig/ Altheim, Germany–Wanted: International pen pals (20+).

Dan Cook (13), 374 S. 3rd St., Rogers City, MI 49779. Favorites: GWF, WCW & WWF promotions.

Ang Kim Kheng (22), Blk 308, Ang Mo Kio Ave 1, #04-1217, Singapore 2056. Favorites: Roddy Piper, IRS, and Rick Martel.

Rita Kent (?), P.O. Box 242, Millspring, NC 28756. Wanted: Fans of Ric Flair.

Lisa Robinson (21), 23 Aspden St., Bamber Bridge, Lancs., U.K.–Favorites: Lex Luger & Shawn Michaels!

Andy Schwanke (20), 1820 9th St., Apt. 7, Green Bay, WI 54304–Wanted: Female pen pals (18-25).

Patti LaRue (31), P.O. Box 457, Augusta, AR 72006–0457– Favorites: Steve Williams & Missy Hyatt.

Tammy Hill (21), P.O. Box 613, Mullens, WV 25882. Favorites: WCW and Smoky Mountain promotions.

Tanya Schuba (20), Michelsberg 2, 6200 Wiesbaden, Germany. Favorites: Roddy Piper, Ric Flair, Bret & Owen Hart. Letters can be written in English/German.

Owen J. Fagot Jr. (38), 3208 Ventura Dr., Chalmette LA 70043-2817 – Favorites: Cactus Jack & the Steiners.

Cyndi and Dominick D'Agosta (28 & 38), 5649 Summerside Ln., Sarasota, FL 34231–Favorites: WCW & WWF heroes.

Adam Montross (14), 8 Mill Creek Dr., E. Greenbush, NY 12061–Favorites: Undertaker & Rick Martel.

Gayle Forster (34), 76 S. Whitlelsey Ave., Wallingford, CT 06492–Favorites: Roddy Piper & Hulk Hogan.

Jerry Johnson (13), P.O. Box 23, Munford, TN 38058–Favorites: The Undertaker, Owen Hart + WWF & USWA stars.

Emma Northfield (18), 41 Godwin Way, Cambridge, CB1– 4QW, England. Wanted: International Randy Savage, Bret Hart & British Bulldog fans (18-27).

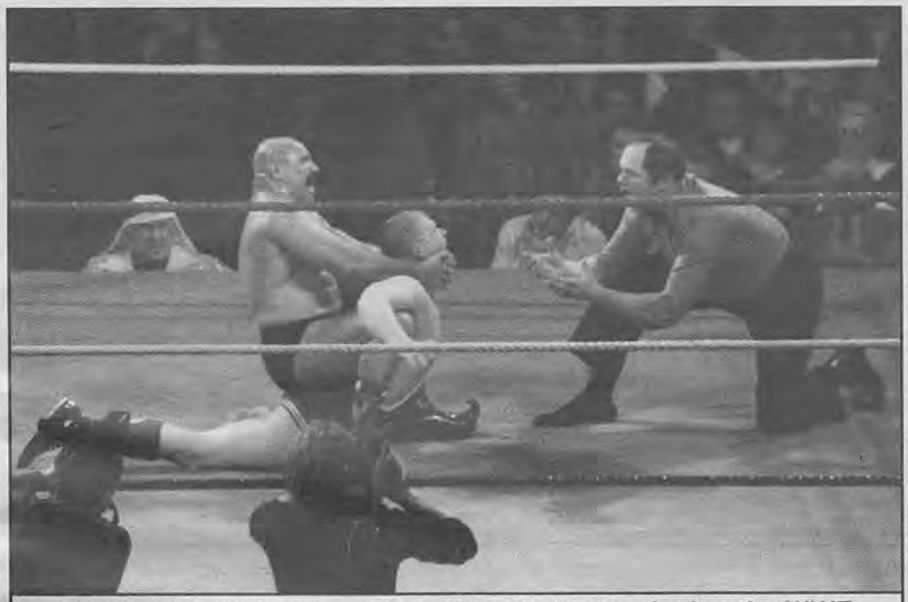
Kyra Ost (21), W.–v.–Eschenbach–Str. 26, D-6200 Wiesbaden, West Germany–Wanted: Pen pals (21+) who are fans of the British Bulldog, Bret Hart, Tito Santana, and Shawn Michaels.

BOB BACKLUND

A WAKE-UP CALL FOR THE WWF!

After years of exile from the World Wrestling Federation, Bob Backlund, the former World champion, has returned with a vengeance, but will he succeed in a promotion that he no longer understands? Will great wrestling talent and ability be enough to overcome glitz, hype, and buffoonery?

by Michael O'Hara



Backlund's dark day — December 26, 1983 — losing the WWF World title to the Iron Sheik at Madison Square Garden. Arnold Skaaland, Bob's manager, threw in the towel causing the upset. photo: Michael O'Hara

Backlund's back! Amazingly, Bob Backlund has returned to the World Wrestling Federation after an eight-year exile, and, at 43 years of age, he's hoping to pick up where he left off.

The Princeton, Minnesota native's triumphant return to the mat scene comes at the end of nearly a decade of bitter feelings between the former World champion and WWF owner Vince McMahon Junior. Because he was angered by his quick removal as the top man, and replaced by Hulk Hogan in January 1984, Bob Backlund lobbied for title matches against "the Real American," only to be dismissed on every occasion. The final straw occurred later that same year: It was suggested to the former titleholder that he dye his hair black and accept a role as a ring villain, which would then assure him matches against Hulk Hogan.

Rather than cast aside all that he had worked so hard to accomplish, Bob packed his bags and competed on a short-lived circuit called *Pro-Wrestling U.S.A.*, a somewhat disjointed merger of talent from the NWA (Mid-Atlantic office), the AWA, and the CWA (Memphis). This hybrid league quickly had all three promotions at each other's throats, so the former World champ bid farewell to the pro-mat world.

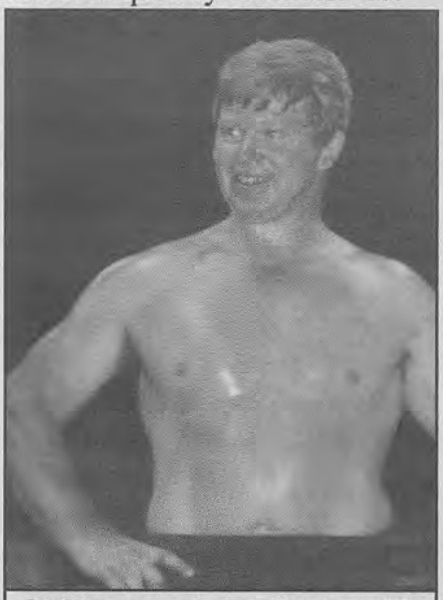
He returned to his Connecticut home, where he became an assistant coach at the University of Connecticut, and also landed a position with the Barney Barker Oil Company. Although he had accepted limited mat gigs over the past eight years, most notably Herb Abrams' UWF, Larry Sharpe's WWA, as well as some Japanese tours, Backlund devoted most of his time to the collegiate level of mat action.

Now, he has returned to the WWF for one last fling. As the last true representative of old-style mat heroism, Backlund will, no doubt, clash against the last true representative of ring

villainy, "Nature Boy" Ric Flair. This will not be the first time the two ring stars have met! They competed against one another in a memorable match on July 15, 1979 at the famed Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Backlund successfully defended his WWF crown, emerging victorious via disqualification.

The scientific mat ace stunned his fans, friends, and foes when he unexpectedly made his return to the WWF on July 1, 1992 on a wrestling card that was held at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, New York. In perfect fighting form, he masterfully subdued Skinner (Steve Keirn), who, at one time, was Bob's tag-team partner in Florida in 1977. Bob followed this proverbial test of the wrestling waters with a pinfall victory over the Brooklyn Brawler (Steve Lombardi) at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens.

He then left the wrestling scene as quickly as he arrived.



At 43 years of age, Backlund is ready to do it all over again! photo: Dawn Lockwood

"Magnificent" Don Muraco was on the receiving end of Backlund's piledriver in this 1982 championship encounter. photo: Michael O'Hara

This past October, however, he showed up, once again, with grim determination, sending challenges to the titleholders of the WWF. The former WWF kingpin is confident that he can do to the current champs, what he did to the flamboyant blond rulebreaker named "Superstar" Billy Graham back in 1978 — namely, capture a gold crown.

Will Bob bring the WWF back to the basics of wrestling? Will he be able to fit into a promotion that has spent the greater part of the last decade focusing on character development, licensing, and marketing strategies?

Bob Backlund's return seems almost mythical in scope. He was raised as a country boy on a Midwestern farm in Princeton, just 45 miles north of Minneapolis. When he wasn't in school, he was doing chores, such as bailing hay or mending fences on the farm.

The hard farm life molded the youngster into solid steel. By the time he had reached the eighth grade, he had reached his full height of six feet. Because of his size, he began wrestling at the age of ten. Bob recalled, "My neighbors were older than me, but they used to take me with them to wrestling practice. Since I was bigger than most boys my age, they didn't mind

Bob proudly defended the WWF gold against the top villains of the 1970s & 1980s.

bringing me along to wrestle the older boys."

In the ninth grade, he took up weight lifting. "My parents didn't understand it," he said. "They were poor people, and all they knew was working hard on the farm. They just couldn't understand athletics, or wasting your time pushing up weights in the living room."

"But, if it wasn't for wrestling when I was younger, I could have become a trouble-maker. When you're young, you sometimes feel like you have to prove things, and be a tough guy. When I got on the mat, then I could prove what I wanted to. Wrestling kept me out of trouble."

During his high-school years, he was the Minnesota state champion in the 175-pound weight class, and a star linebacker and offensive guard on the school's football team.

At Waldorf Junior College in Forest City, Iowa, Bob wrestled and played football. Twice, he was named Junior College All-American as a defensive end.

He transferred to North Dakota State on a full athletic scholarship. He played football under coach Ron Erhardt, wrestled, and was a member of the track team. He threw the discus and shot put. With his speed of 4.7 seconds in the 40-yard dash, he ran the third leg of the 440-yard relay team. His wrestling credentials were equally impressive; his wrestling team ranked second in the nation, and, in his senior year he was the 190-lb. national collegiate champion.

Bob credits the support of his parents as a significant factor in his incredible athletic success. "It meant a lot to me that they understood that I loved sports, and they would support me in whatever I did. They came to all of my games, which made me very happy," recalled the mat great.

He tried a year of semipro football, but became frustrated with the lack of advancement. Pro-wrestling quickly caught his attention, and, contrary to popular belief, it was not former AWA World champion Verne Gagne who trained Bob for a successful career in the grunt 'n' groan business, but "Professor" Eddie Sharkey, who was also instrumental in the training of the Road Warriors/the Legion of Doom, and Jesse "the Body" Ventura, to name just a few.

After eight months of instruction, Bob made his professional debut in Shreveport, Louisiana, and then began the long, hard climb to the top.

"I had no money, and everything I owned was in the back seat of my car. I was wrestling twice a week, but I wasn't getting enough money to afford the cheapest motel room. Many

"Gentleman" Gerry Valiant (Guy Mitchell) was kept at a disadvantage throughout this 1979 title match. photo: Michael O'Hara

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nights, I slept in the trunk of my car, which had an inside release. I'd shut the trunk door at night, and I slept with a baseball bat, because I didn't know what the area was like," said the Minnesota mat master.

He moved on to Amarillo, Texas, and his big break came with an upset victory over former NWA champion Terry Funk. The situation improved, and Bob jokingly said, "At least I could finally afford to sleep in a cheap hotel room."

Texas was a real turning point in many respects. He took his high-school sweetheart, Corky, on the road with him for the next year, to see if she could tolerate life with a pro-wrestler. They were married in 1976 on Halloween, a date Bob picked so that he would never have trouble remembering their anniversary.

By accepting bookings in Florida, Georgia, and St. Louis, Missouri simultaneously, he took on one of the most grueling schedules of any wrestler on the circuit. The breaks continued to come his way, and his reputation grew with each passing match. He wrestled former NWA World champion Jack Brisco at the Omni in Atlanta, and the match was a sellout.

"The Brisco bout really pushed me up. It changed my income, and before I knew it, I was flying to St. Louis every week to wrestle," said Bob.

At the shows held at the Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis, Bob was taken under the wing of promoter Sam Muchnick, and the results were astonishing. On April 23, 1976, Backlund beat Harley Race to capture the Missouri State championship.

His contests in Florida added additional gloss to his skills. He held his own against the likes of Bob Orton Junior, Bob Roop, Paul "Butcher" Vachon, and Buddy Wolfe.

The regional matches were taped and syndicated in various parts of the United States, and *Championship Wrestling From Florida* found its way on to a Spanish-speaking UHF television station in New York City, catching the attention of mat promoters Vince McMahon Senior and Willie Gilzenburg, whose World Wide Wrestling Federation/Capital Wrestling Corporation was based in midtown Manhattan.

Bob was offered a contract to

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"The Champ" is glad to be back, and he's hoping to bring the grappling game back to the highest level of competition.
photo: Michael O'Hara

wrestle in the WWWF; however, his commitments in Florida kept him out of the Northeastern arenas for most of 1977. Backlund's appearances on the WWF's Philadelphia and Allentown, Pennsylvania TV tapings every three weeks had certainly whet the fans' appetites for more. At the beginning of December 1977, he moved to Connecticut with his wife and month-old baby girl.

One of the most interesting events that took place in 1977 involved Bob's dual commitments to both Florida and New York. While competing in the Sunshine State, he was given a televised Florida State title match against champion Buddy Wolfe, but the regional belt holder scored a clean, pinfall win. Needless to say, when the taping made its way on to New York TV, McMahon Senior was livid, and he immediately made arrangements to have Wolfe flown up from Florida for the WWF's next set of TV tapings in Philadelphia. A rematch was held, and Backlund, using the atomic knee drop and top-spread cover, gained the pinfall. This combination of moves would go on to become one of his famous finishing maneuvers.

On February 20, 1978, his years of sacrifice paid off. Before a crowd of 22,092, Bob scored a controversial pinfall win over "Superstar" Billy Graham, winning the coveted WWWF championship.

Over the course of the next six years, the superstar displayed his dynamic, no-nonsense style for the Northeast audiences. Bob brought wrestling to the forefront of competition, and his accomplishments were staggering.

Will lightning strike again? When wrestling needed him most, this perennial scientific grappling gladiator returned to set things right. He's a man on a mission, and heaven help the glitzy goons foolish enough to stand in his way! ***NWW***

A SPECIAL BOB BACKLUND TIME CAPSULE

February 20, 1978 — Madison Square Garden, New York City: Bob Backlund pinned "Superstar" Billy Graham to win the WWWF World heavyweight championship. (Controversy ensued as Graham had his foot draped over the bottom ring rope, unbeknownst to the referee.)

February 23, 1978 — Jacksonville, Florida: Three days after winning the WWWF gold strap, Bob went to a draw with NWA World champion Harley Race in the double title match main event on the classic Wrestling Super Bowl II.

March 21, 1979 — Bangor, Maine: Bob sent everyone home on a happy note by clobbering "Captain" Lou Albano, the overblown, windbag wrestling manager. The match was stopped as the hated Albano bled profusely.

March 25, 1979 — Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Another champion versus champion match took place. This time Backlund went to a double count out with AWA kingpin Nick Bockwinkel.

November 30, 1979 — Tokushima, Japan: Antonio Inoki pinned Bob for the WWF title at 28:16. The title change was never officially announced to fans in North America.

December 6, 1979 — Tokyo, Japan: Backlund regained the gold by pinning Inoki at 27:19. (Tiger Jeet Singh attacked Inoki from ringside.)

September 22, 1980 — Madison Square Garden, New York City: Backlund scored a disqualification win over Harley Race in a WWF World champion versus NWA World champion rematch.

December 10, 1980 — Osaka, Japan: Backlund and Antonio Inoki defeated Hulk Hogan and Stan Hansen in the finals to win the National Wrestling Federation's Madison Square Garden tag-team tournament.

February 7, 1980 — Worcester, Massachusetts: Backlund had seen the future, and it was Hulk Hogan. The six-foot-eight rulebreaker, managed by Fred Blassie, was given his first WWF title match, and scored a count-out win over the champ. That was as close as he would get to upending the Minnesota great.

March 27, 1980 — Osaka, Japan: The champ turned back the challenges of Dusty Rhodes via disqualification in a rare hero versus hero title match.

August 8, 1980 — Shea Stadium, Queens, New York: Backlund, with partner Pedro Morales, made WWF history by capturing the WWF tag-team belts from the Samoans. Bob is the only wrestler to have ever held the WWF singles and tag-team belts simultaneously.

August 27, 1983 — Madison Square Garden, New York City: The champ scored the quickest pinfall in a championship match by cradling George "the Animal" Steele in a mere 39 seconds!

December 26, 1983 — Madison Square Garden, New York City: The Iron Sheik upset Backlund to capture the WWF title. (Bob's manager, Arnold Skaaland threw in the towel, as the champion, with an injured lower back, refused to submit to the Sheik's camel clutch submission hold.)

INTERNATIONAL SLAMS

compiled by Michael O'Hara

Popular Danny Boy Collins enjoys the tough competition provided on the British & German wrestling circuits photo: Betty Frank

AUSTRIA & GERMANY

CWA Promotions: We just received a postcard from our good friend, the Mongolian Mauler, who sends his regards to all ***New Wavers***. The Mauler has been competing for promoter Otto Wanz and his Catch Wrestling Alliance in Austria and Germany since the beginning of November. The 300-pound wild man should be causing all sorts of havoc in the United States by the time you read this...Other CWA stars include: Rambo, who is the CWA World heavyweight champion, Eddy Steinblock, Klaus Kauroff, Franz Schumann, Steve Wright, Colonel Brody, Dave "Fit" Finlay, and Mile Zrno.

CANADA

Canadian Championship Wrestling: This Nova Scotia organization wrapped up its 1992 season. "Bad Boy" Eddie Watts was junior-heavyweight champ. "Big" Stephen Petitpas and Leo Burke were the CCW tag champions. "Texas Outlaw" Rick Patterson held the Canadian heavyweight strap. Other CCW stars included: Soaring Eagle, Danny Littlewolf, Todd McPhee, "Butcher" Vachon (not the original), the Cuban Assassin, the Acadian Giant (7' 3" - 320 pounds), Goldie Rogers, and midgets Tiger Jackson & the Irish Leprechaun.

International Wrestling Alliance: This Calgary, Alberta league features the following: Gerry Morrow, Brett Como, Steve Gillespie, Jake Steele, Jason Helton, Bill Jodin, Shane Kroft, P.J. Walker, Biff Wellington, and Chris Jereco.

Universal Independent Wrestling: This group is running shows throughout British Columbia and Washington State. "Playboy" Buddy Rose defeated Buddy Wayne in the finals of an eight-man elimination tournament to become the first UIW heavyweight champion. The circuit also features The Grappler (Len Denton), Moose Morowski, Ole Olson, Tommy Justice, Johnny Graham, Ed "Moondog" Moretti, Rick Lee, Billy Two Eagles, "Diamond" Timothy Flowers, and midgets "Little Nasty Boy" Danny and Coconut Willie.

West Coast Championship Wrestling: The tag team of "Moose" Morowski and Ole Olson have split, and they are now feuding...The British Columbia promotion recognizes no champions at present, but includes the following: The Basher, the Inferno, Mighty Quinn, Randy Tyler, Mike

England's "One & Only" Lewis Blain is a star on the rise. photo: Richard Safe

Masahiro Chono and Rick Rude continue their heated feud throughout the United States and Japan. photo: Koichi Yoshizawa

Roselli, the Olympian, the Samoan Hitman, Doug Masters, "Diamond" Timothy Flowers, "Playboy" Buddy Rose, and Michelle Starr.

GREAT BRITAIN

All-Star: Kendo Nagasaki is feuding with "Bomber" Pat Roach...420-pound "Scrubber" Daley and 630-pound Giant Haystacks have formed, what is believed to be, the largest tag team in the history of British wrestling...Scotland's Chic Cullen defeated Robbie Brookside for the mid-heavyweight championship...Other wrestlers appearing are Danny Boy Collins, Doc Dean, Blondie Barratt, Steve Regal, and Tarzan Wilson.

Dale Martin Promotions: Big Daddy and Giant Haystacks have been involved in a series of classic brawls...Australia's New Kangaroos ("Dazzler" Dunlop & "Lofty" Light) and the six-foot-eight American, the Texas Ranger, have recently toured... "The One & Only" Lewis Blain remains on top of the fans' hate list...Rookie star the Bounty Hunter (Steve Slaymaker) is making tremendous progress... Others on the circuit include: Tony Stewart, Johnny Angel, Clive Cannell, Kamikaze & Ricardo.

Pro-Wrestling South: This group features Clive Cannell, Brian Lewis, Big Daddy, Tony Stewart, the Bounty Hunter, Gerry Finch, Dr. Death, Paul Brittan, Red Rebel, and "Spinner" McKenzie.

Southeastern Wrestling Alliance: The U.K. Nasty Boys (Finch & Conway), Pete Collins, the Skyscraper, Steve Hawk, John Harvey, and female tag teams — the Bovver Birds and the Pinup Girls — are just some of the SWA stars seeing action here.

JAPAN

All-Japan: This group is celebrating its 20th anniversary with an incredible array of exciting match events. Triple Crown champion–Mitsuhara Misawa is feuding with Toshiaki Kawada...**Jumbo Tsuruta**, Terry Gordy & Andre the Giant pinned Giant Baba, **Dory Funk Junior** & Stan Hansen in a special six-man tag-team event in Tokyo. Terry Funk was in his brother's corner.

All-Japan Women: Tomoko Watanabe defeated Sakie Hasegawa for the All-Japan Women's title in Chiba.

Frontier Martial Arts Wrestling: The original Sheik (Ed Farhat) has been out of action because of a number of ring injuries, but he will be back in action for the 1993 season... Horace Boulder (the nephew of Hulk Hogan), Sabu (the nephew of the Sheik), and the Gladiator have been seeing six-man tag-team action...Atsushi Onita defeated Tiger Jeet Singh in an "Electrified, Land Mine Explosion Death Match" to regain the FMW Martial Arts championship... Mat legends Walter "Killer" Kowalski and "The Golden Greek" John Tolos went to a 15-minute time-limit draw on an exciting card held in Yokohama.

Japan Women's Promotion: Devil Masami, Commando Bolshoi, Cutie Suzuki, Sumiko Saito, and Plum Mariko are the top stars for this promotion.

New Japan Pro-Wrestling: As we go to press, a main event pitting Hulk Hogan against Antonio Inoki is tentatively scheduled for the Tokyo Egg Dome on January 4, 1993... Shinya Hashimoto and **Riki Chosyu** defeated Hiroshi Hase & **Kensuke Sasaki** to win the recent NJWP tag tournament in Hamamatsu...Road Warrior Hawk (Michael Hegstrand)

Koji Kanemoto exploded with a devastating snap-kick on Satoshi Kojima during this exciting New Japan Wrestling contest. photo: Koichi Yoshizawa

made his solo debut here.

Oriental Pro-Wrestling: Ryuma Go's promotion is working with Sandy Barr's Championship Wrestling U.S.A. group, based in Portland, Oregon. OPW stars include: the Bruise Brothers (Ron & Don Harris), Jesse Barr, Bart Sawyer, Mike Miller, Hiroshi Itakura, John Rambo, Bart Sawyer, and Karl Pope.

WAR (War And Romance): Genichiro Tenryu's group has been working with the WWF. Recent American stars have included Paul Diamond (now wrestling as Max Moon), Legion of Doom's Animal, the Beverly Brothers, Chavo Guerrero, the Undertaker, and King Haku (Lenny Hurst)...Tenryu went to a double count out with Ric Flair in a two-out-of-three-falls event in Ohmuta.

WING: This organization plays host to the weirdest assortment of talent, including Leatherface, Kevin Sullivan, Lucifer (Steve Collins), Jason the Terrible, Kim Duk, Mr. Pogo, Crush the Eliminator, and the Inferno.

MEXICO

AAA: Cien Caras is now feuding with Chavo Guerrero... El Sicodelico has completed a series of contests with Perro Aguayo...Other wrestlers include: Universo 2000, Octogon, Rey Misterio Junior, Super Calo, and Pirata Morgan.

Empressa Mexicano de la Lucha Libre: Bestia Salvaje is the current middleweight champion... The top villain on the circuit is Casanova — The Canadian Vampire!...Ken Timbs, the well-known, Georgia midcard grappler, is competing here as El Fabuloso Blondie...The Love Machine is Art Barr (formerly Betelgeuse in the Pacific Northwest)...Wrestlers on this circuit include: Pirata Morgan, Archangel of Death, Guerrero de la Muerte, El Scorpio Negro, Solomon Grundy, and Rayo de Jalisco Junior.

Universal Wrestling Association: El Canek (now a fan favorite) is the UWA heavyweight champion...The Rochester Roadblock is wrestling here as Toro Infernal...Villano # 5 currently holds the light-heavyweight title...El Laser holds the lightweight crown...Also on the scene: El Gran Hamada, El Colosso, the Killer, "Loco" Zandokan, Dr. Wagner Junior, and Villano III.

NIGERIA

Nigerian Wrestling Federation: Sunny Wonder is the National junior-heavyweight champion... Wil Mascaras holds the NWF middleweight title.

National Wrestling Alliance of Nigeria: The African Mongol holds the NWAN heavyweight championship..."Marvelous" Mr. Mee is the junior-heavyweight titleholder, and he is being hailed as "the Nigerian Davey Boy Smith"...Abbey City is the National welterweight champion, and "Superman" Elephando Bassey holds both the Nigerian and African middleweight straps.

PUERTO RICO

World Wrestling Council: WWC World champ Invader I (Jose Gonzales) is feuding with "Dirty" Dick Murdoch...Ricky Santana is competing here as the Iceman...The masked team of Solid Gold is comprised of Jose Estrada, one of the most talented WWF preliminary wrestlers of the 1970s and 1980s, and his son Julio...Others in the area include: Steve Doll, Miguel Perez Junior, the German Storm Troopers, Ray Gonzalez, and the Equalizer. ***NWW***

Enjoy a rollicking ride through seven decades of Canadian wrestling history!

OSSIE TIMMINS' 60 YEARS OF MAT MEMORIES

By Roma O'Hara

NW: When do you remember professional wrestling coming into Canada, Ossie?

OT: Wrestling started in a big way during the Great Depression in 1932, when Henry Irslinger came into Halifax with four grapplers from the United States and Upper Canada. He promoted in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and, a few years later, Newfoundland. The game flourished over the years until 1985, that's when the WWF came in and promoted about four shows a year in Halifax. This killed all the individual promoters in Halifax. Today, the only places where wrestling is still booked are the small towns and villages. The WWF is now going into New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

NW: In the early years, who came to wrestle in the area?

OT: "Cowboy" Len Hughes came to the area in 1933 as the Masked Marvel. He continued to come back every summer, except during World War II, and he did the bookings for local promoters until he retired in 1960. He then moved here from the United States, and he continued to promote for three more years, until he finally retired to his home in Nova Scotia. He passed away, I believe, in 1985. He was one of the greats.

In the 1940s through 1970s, most of the big attractions in Halifax were brought in: champions, past champions, future champions, women wrestlers, and midget wrestlers.

NW: What was the largest wrestling crowd you had ever seen?

OT: The largest crowd I ever saw was in the Halifax Forum on the last night of the annual Exhibition, right before World War II broke out. The wrestling card had a match between Danno O'Mahoney and Dick Shikat. So many fans wanted to get inside to see this match, that they tore down a back door and just walked inside. I was very young at the time, but I still remember how people were everywhere in the building.

I'm sure they had more people the first night that Hulk Hogan came here with the WWF.

NW: What were you doing before you became a wrestler?

OT: When I was fourteen years old, I was taking boxing lessons from Jack McKenna, the former Canadian boxing champion. Then at seventeen, I began studying amateur wrestling at the YMCA. When World War II broke out in 1939, I went to serve my country.

NW: When did you begin your career as a professional wrestler?

OT: I began wrestling in 1945. A touring wrestler was hurt, and I was offered the match. I wrestled against Pat Gerrard from Montreal and lost. The promoter offered me more matches and that is how my wrestling career began. I combined wrestling with my government job. I wrestled in areas I could reach in one evening, and I also wrestled on my vacation.

NW: Does any particular match come to mind?

OT: I remember a match when I was wrestling at the South Shore Exhibition; the referee and I drove down together, and I parked my car two blocks away from the entrance. Since they had a lot of horse pulling, cattle showing, etc., they had bunkhouses for the

Join wrestler/referee Ossie Timmins on his nostalgic journey!

Ossie is seen here taking Rudy Kay to the mat with a forward leg sweep during a match on the old Maritime Provinces wrestling circuit. photo: Ossie Timmins collection

handlers of the animals. They directed us to one of these bunkhouses, which was way off the fairgrounds. I was a heel (villain) that night, and the referee did not catch me doing a lot of illegal things to the local hero, so I won the match. We were escorted out of the ring by a Mountie (police officer), and the crowd followed us right to the bunkhouse. I could hear the crowd outside yelling threats at us, and we knew that we would not be able to get out of there without a fight. All of a sudden, a police car drove up full of Mounties. They put us in the back seat, and they drove us to where my car was parked. Sometimes after the matches, people follow us to our cars, but that night, the police followed us until we were out of town.

Another match that comes to mind was when I wrestled in Annapolis Valley. I threw my opponent out of the ring and, unbeknownst to me, he caught his arm on a nail that was used to tie the canvas down. The blood squirted all over the place, but because he was on the floor, I couldn't see this. I kept calling him to get back into the ring, and as the referee counted him out, all these big farmers rushed to ringside and shouted at me. Not knowing how I was going to get to the dressing room, I finally rushed to the side of the ring where the farmers were yelling at me, and I threw a kick in their direction. They backed off, and I raced to the dressing room. In the small towns, they usually have only one police officer for

protection. I finally reached the dressing room, and it was empty. All the other wrestlers had already left. I immediately locked the door and started piling chairs and benches against the door. I stayed there for three hours until the Mountie on duty cleared everyone away. I later heard that my opponent was taken to the hospital for 24 stitches.

NW: Bulldog Brower wrestled in Canada quite often. Do you remember any particular match with him involved?

OT: One night at the Forum, promoters matched Bull Curry against Bulldog Brower. They fought in and, mostly, out of the ring. They finally chased each other out the side entrance and into the street. A woman driving by, stopped when she saw these two men fighting. As she stopped her car, right in the middle of the street, Brower bodyslammed Curry onto the car. Naturally, they dented it. I later heard that the promoter paid for the damages made to the car.

NW: Were there ever any riots at the matches in Halifax?

OT: We've never had any riots at the matches in Halifax because they always had lots of police in attendance. Sometimes, spectators would really get worked up and try to get at one of the heels, but the police were always there to prevent anything.

One night before "Killer" Joe Christie went on, he asked me how the crowds behaved in Halifax. I told him not to worry, just to relax. Well, as luck would have it, some fan ran up to him, just when the match was going good, and hit him over the head with a steel chair, splitting his head open. As he left for the hospital, all he could say to me was, "You're some friend!"

Today, Ossie spends his summer days swimming in his beloved Halifax, Nova Scotia.

NW: When did you start refereeing?

OT: I refereed mostly in the 1970s. When I first broke in as a referee, I started wearing a pair of wrestling trunks under my white pants. I always thought I would lose my pants and be embarrassed with just my underwear on.

One night when I was working a tag-team contest with another referee, wrestler Harry Madison from Montreal reached out and ripped the other referee's pants off. When the referee jumped out of the ring, everything fell out of his underwear! He quickly covered himself up with his hands and ran to get another pair of pants. Within minutes, Madison did the same thing to me, but, fortunately, I had my trunks on, so I ended the match wearing my trunks.

NW: Did you ever get hurt as a referee?

OT: Jim "the Brute" Bernard hit me over the head with a hardwood chair during a battle royal once. For at least two weeks after that incident, I had a very hard time remembering things. I also couldn't stand any loud noise.

Speaking of "Big" Jim, he was in a tag-team match in Halifax where the winner was to receive $500 in cash. As the announcer held up the cash to the fans, Jim grabbed the money and ran out of the building. His partner ran out after him and finally talked him into coming back to start the match. You never knew what he was going to do.

NW: What do you do in your spare time now?

OT: My wife Doris and I enjoy swimming, tennis, and boating. I still keep myself in good shape.

NW: Thanks, Ossie, for sharing your wrestling memories with us.

OT: I enjoyed it very much. *NWW*

FIND THE HIDDEN HOLDS CONTEST #1!

Here's our latest brain-busting contest! Find the hidden holds listed in the diagram below. If you're the first person to CORRECTLY complete this colossal puzzle, we'll send you a *New Wave Wrestling™* grab bag filled with surprises galore!

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Circle the 15 Holds Listed Below.

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D	L	M	Y	O	U	C	K	E	H	A	B	O	B	A
R	S	A	H	O	P	W	N	X	E	B	N	R	I	C
O	L	B	W	H	L	H	A	P	O	P	Y	O	M	K
P	O	S	L	T	E	V	O	L	P	H	G	T	R	B
K	V	T	O	F	X	S	O	E	C	S	I	L	K	R
I	R	O	V	E	R	P	A	T	S	M	I	E	L	E
C	E	M	E	L	U	F	U	N	Y	A	L	P	K	A
K	P	P	O	N	V	L	M	T	A	I	R	A	L	K
P	E	A	C	E	C	J	O	Y	E	V	O	L	G	E
E	E	H	V	A	B	I	G	S	P	L	A	S	H	R
A	L	U	R	N	I	T	Y	H	A	P	P	Y	R	M
C	S	B	S	H	A	R	P	S	H	O	O	T	E	R
E	O	L	O	V	E	G	U	H	R	A	E	B	V	M
C	E	J	O	Y	H	C	N	U	P	T	R	A	E	H

Words run in all directions—across, backwards, up, down, and diagonally. Find the following holds: Backbreaker, Claw, Bearhug, Cobra Clutch, Big Splash, Sleeper, Sharpshooter, Bolo Punch, Suplex, Lariat, Heart Punch, El Toro, Dropkick, Stomp, Left Hook.

Name _____
Address _____
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Congratulations to our ***New Wave Wrestling Brigade*** winners!

• **Rob Kranson of Glendale Heights, IL!** He successfully completed our **WWF Intercontinental Title Trivia Contest!** Honorable mention to: Robby Borenstein (Massapequa, NY), Richard Worth (N. Humberside, England), Clarke T.K. White (Hastings, New Zealand), Ben Tamura (Kula, Hawaii), Jordan Lavender-Smith (Las Cruces, NM), Brian Morefield (Mountain City, TN), Phillip Belderian (Glendale, CA), Jason Hout (Gloucestershire, England), Steve Stidham (Buffalo, MO), and Rich Miller Jr. (Derry, PA).

• **Joseph Yerkes of Riverdale, NJ** is the winner of our **Wrestlers & Their Nicknames Contest # 2!** Honorable mention to the following: Jackie Harnett (Bronx, NY), James Eng (NY, NY), Daniel Trump (Lewisville, TX), Luis Garcia (Chicago, IL), Darlene McKinney (W. Plains, MO), Daniel Wachtell (Rye, NY), Steve Chaddock (Brooklyn, NY), Brian Halk (Springfield, OH), David Cantu (Irving, TX) and Richard Worth (N. Humberside, England).

We'll list the first 25 fans who *correctly* complete this contest in a future issue of ***New Wave Wrestling!***

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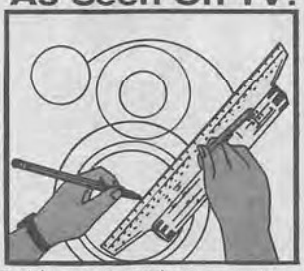

The Rolling Ruler™ is the graphic design tool of choice by the artisans at ***New Wave Wrestling HQ***! It's the perfect gadget for students, inventors, designers, and anyone else who has ever anguished over drawing circles, squares, rectangles, straight or parallel lines. This amazing 12-inch ruler features a special roller within a clear cylinder that literally glides across paper, measuring and neatly drawing all types of geometric designs.
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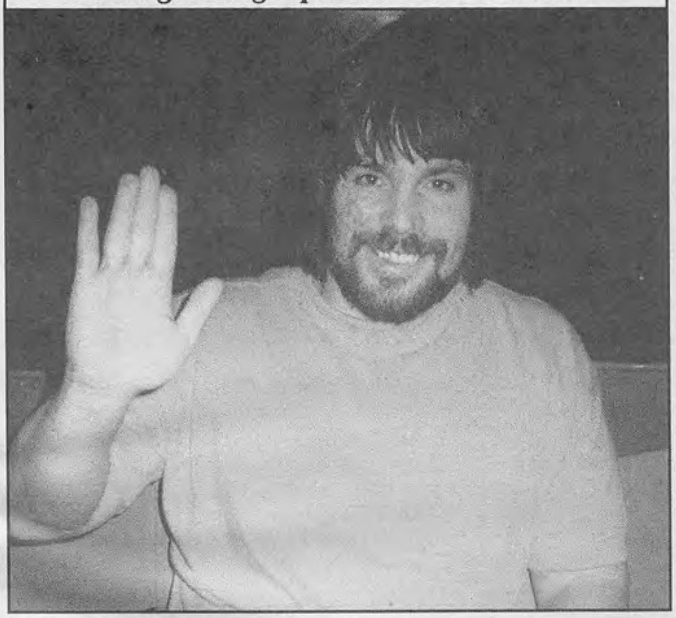
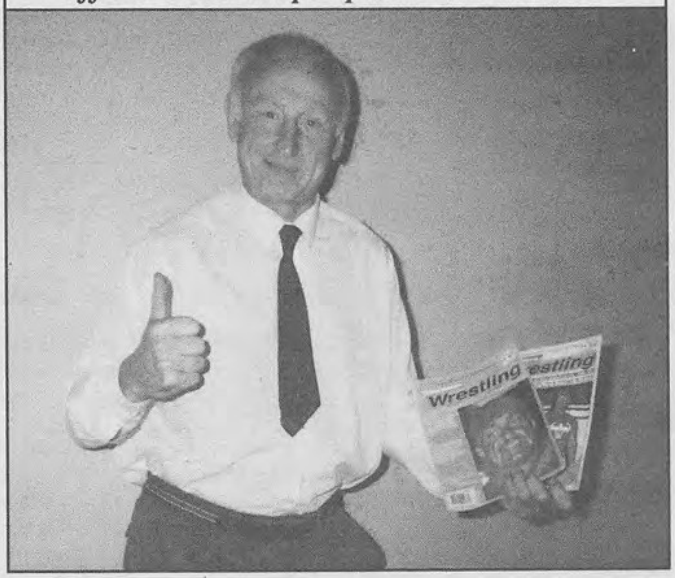
CANDID CONTENDERS

Great Grappling Pixs Of Your Mat Favorites Away From The Ring!

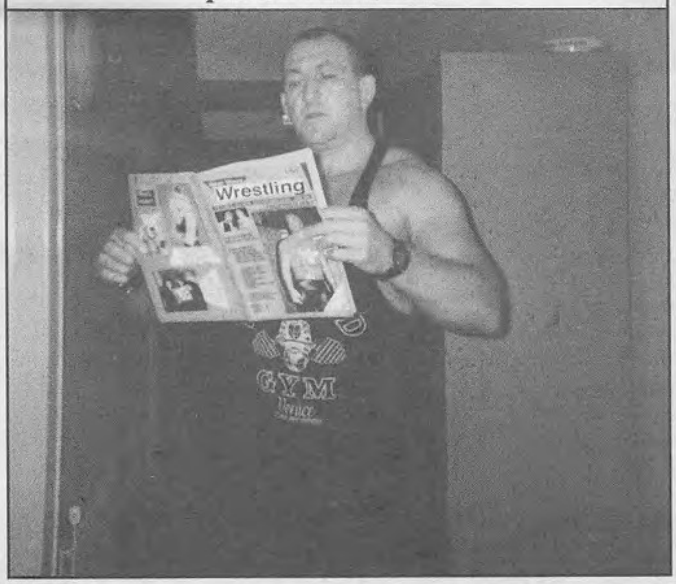
"Genius" Lanny Poffo offered his customary warm greeting. photo: Dave Cameron



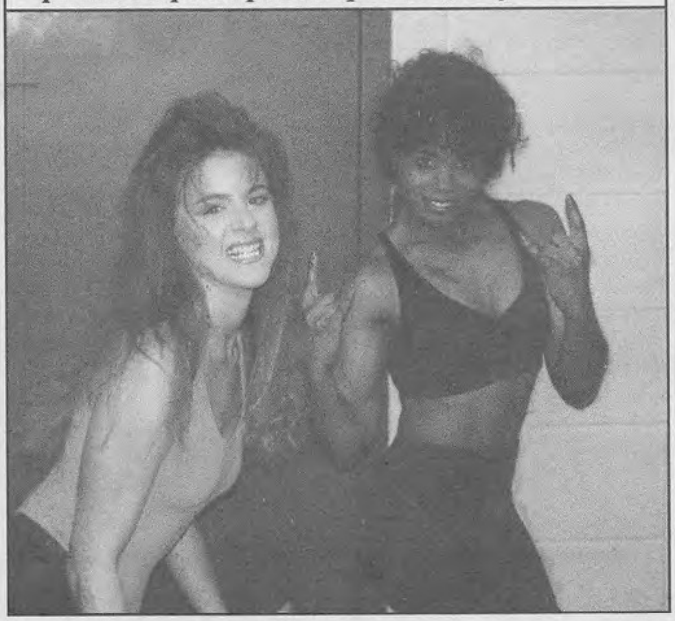
Max Crabtree, Britain's premier mat impresario, gave **New Wave Wrestling** *his official thumbs up! photo: Al Marshall*



Ray Robinson, the European cruiserweight champ, enjoyed some postmatch relaxation. photo: Al Marshall



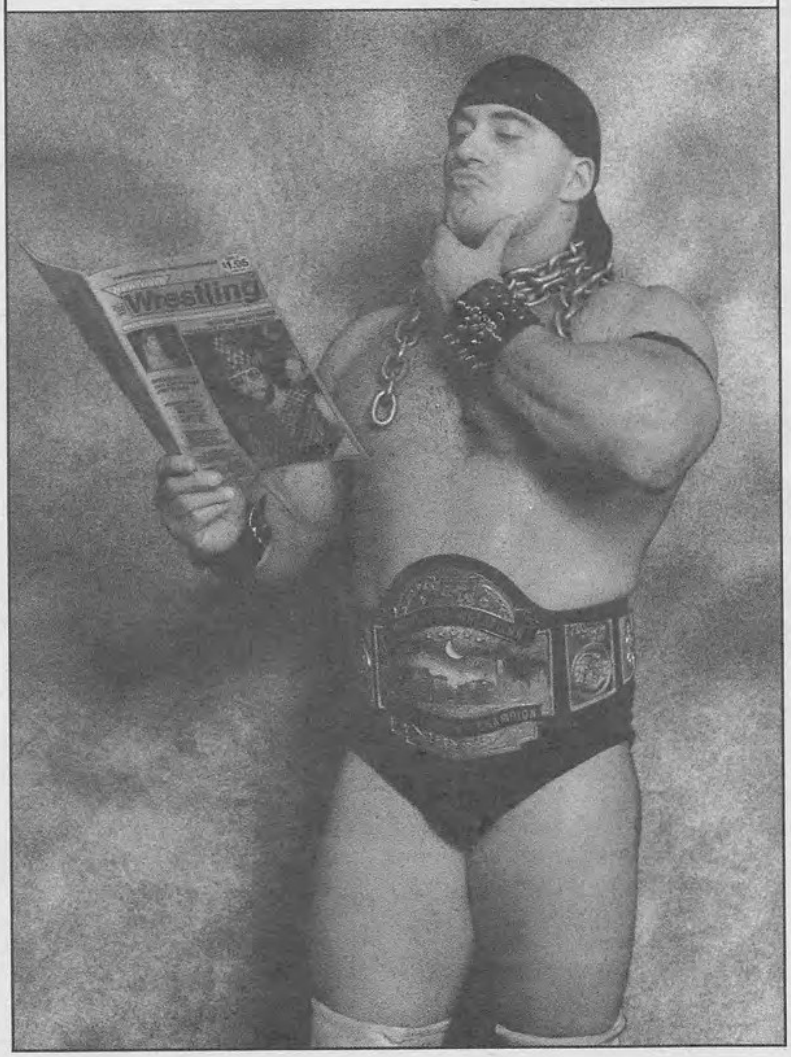
The Dirty White Girl (left) & Miss Texas (right) provided quick poses! photo: Jerry Wilson

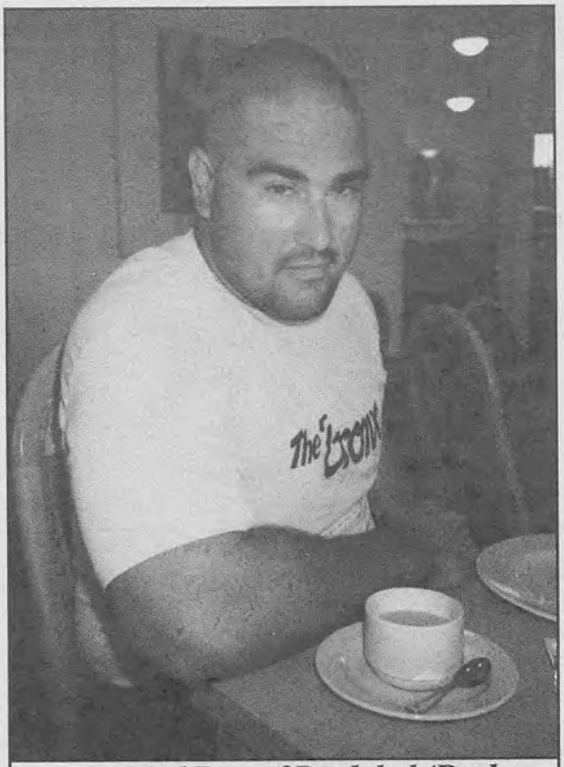


"Captain" Lou and Bruno Sammartino reminisce about the good ol' days. photo: John Pantozzi

Pixs of your fightin' favorites!

"Iron" Mike Samson, the Windy City Wrestling World heavyweight champion, peruses the pages of our pulse-pounding publication!
photo: Jeff Meridian





The Mad Dog of Baghdad (Rocky Iaukea, the son of legendary mat great, "King" Curtis Iaukea) relaxed with a spot of tea! photo: Dave Cameron

Candi Divine, everyone's favorite grapplerette, flashes one of her famous million-dollar smiles! photo: Jon Simmes

MIKE'S MAILBAG

Send your questions, comments & opinions to:
Michael O'Hara, Publisher
New Wave Wrestling
P.O. Box 9035, Grand Station, Dept, MM
Long Island City, NY 11103–9991

Dear Mike & Company:

I am a British writer/poet and the mother of a nine-year old, Steve, who introduced me to the hitherto unknown and unimaginable "joys" of pro-wrestling!

Steve has purchased every wrestling magazine available here in the U.K., and of them all, ***New Wave*** represents the best value, the best read, and the best info provider.

Although I tend to favor the WWF, I find the unnecessary violence and blatant rulebreaking distasteful in view of the high percentage of young children watching.

Up to a point, the characterizations make the contests more watchable, but children under seven are unable to differentiate between real and simulated violence. The look on the faces of the very young audience members sometimes register real fear. I welcome your magazine, and its aim to get back to true wrestling. Long may you continue. (Especially if you print more pictures of the Undertaker. Wow!)

Julia Ann Lucie
Nottingham, England

P.S. Steve asked me to write a poem about wrestling, so I did!

WWOOF

Callaway, you're gorgeous,
UnderTake me, please.

Hickenbottom ain't so perfect
And Perfect has no flair

Warrior, you've changed my friend
But Warriors don't care.
Kamala, dump that Kimchee,
He's just a Brawler, see;
He'd go down rather nicely
With a cup of English tea.

Savage, aren't you stomach-sick
Of being bashed about?
Will you revert to rule-breaking
And do a turnabout?

Disasters, new tag champions,
Congratulations guys;
I guess the belt will stay a while
By reason of your size.

Hitman Hart and Davey Boy
Both wrestlers fine and true;
The Summerslamming match-up
Saw Bulldog barking through.

This rhyme is getting over-stretched,
I'll sign off just for now;
New Wave you are EXCELLENT,
I'll write you later... CIAO!

Hi, Mike!

Congratulations on ***New Wave Wrestling***. I am a University of Montreal student, and I enjoy wrestling, especially the ladies. Has a grapplerette ever made a male wrestler submit with the figure-four?

Claude Pilon
Verdun, Quebec, Canada

(Mike's memo: Although there have been mixed matches over the years, to my knowledge, no male wrestler has ever submitted to a lady grappler's figure-four.)

Dear Michael & Gang:

I would like to respond to Todd A. Bragg's letter that appeared in ***New Wave Wrestling # 5***. I feel that POWW and GLOW had many top lady wrestlers, including: Luna Vachon, Peggy Lee Leather, and Tina Moretti. The LPWA are expected to tour here in the near future, and I look forward to their arrival.

In closing, I want to thank you for this great magazine. It is the only one I buy that covers the international scene. (Who is wrestling where, and against whom?)

Michael di Francisco
Rotterdam, Holland

Dear Mike O'Hara:

Congratulations on a near-perfect wrestling magazine! In this propaganda-filled day and age, honest, fact-filled reporting is a refreshing change.

I hope to see less WWF coverage and more coverage on the independents and WCW. Interviews with Ron Powers, Col. Buck Robley, Buddy Landell, and Terry Gordy would be great.

I've enjoyed the interviews with Orton, Lawler, and Brower. They contained information you wouldn't find anywhere else.

K.C. Darkharte
Biloxi, MS

(Mike's memo: Thanks, K.C. With each passing issue, as you can see, we're trying to strike a better balance between international, independent, and major league coverage. In time, we'll eventually interview everyone that will sit still long enough for one of our in-depth conversations.)

Dear Mike:

Thanks for a magazine that tells the facts. You provide mat history and no cover-ups.

Can you tell me where Denny Brown wrestled before his stint in the IWF?

James Wheeler
Lake Hamilton, FL

(Mike's memo: Denny has spent most of his career in your home state. In fact, in the 1980s he held the NWA World junior-heavyweight championship. He defended the strap throughout Florida and the Mid-Atlantic states.)

Dear Michael:

I absolutely love your new magazine!

My family and I recently attended IWWW cards that were promoted by Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka. Many top stars were featured, including: Buddy Rose, Colonel DeBeers, B. Brain Blair, Paul Orndorff, the Tonga Warrior, midgets Tiger Jackson and Little Louie, along with a handsome local wrestler named "Dash" Riprock (Donovan).

Nothing matches the excitement of seeing live action in a small arena. There was a real rapport between the wrestlers and the fans that you don't feel in a large venue. The icing on the cake was talking to the stars, who were warm and gracious. The IWWW left us with some great wrestling memories.

Keep up the good work!

Fawn-Joy Wagner
Price, UT

PINFORMATION

Send your questions to:
Michael O'Hara, Publisher
New Wave Wrestling
P.O. Box 9035, Grand Station, Dept. Pinfo
Long Island City, NY 11103-9991

As promised in the last issue to *New Waver* Robert Condrey of Houston, Texas — here's a pix of Greg Valentine with the Grand Wizard (Ernie Roth), without his infamous turban & sunglasses!

Dear ***New Wave Wrestling***,

I never thought I'd write a complaint letter, but you neglected to mentioned Greg "the Hammer" Valentine's and Tito Santana's second title reign in the Intercontinental Title Trivia contest that appeared in ***New Wave Wrestling # 7***.

I felt I had to point out this fact as ***New Wave*** is a top-class magazine, which needs to maintain its high standards.

Also can you print the answers to future contests? Please continue printing your brilliant past, present, and future information.

Thanks,
Richard Worth
N. Humberside, England

*(Mike's memo: Many thanks to Richard and the countless other **New Wavers** who have flooded **NWW HQ** concerning the Intercontinental title blunder. Believe it or not, I was in the midst of researching the careers of both Tito and Greg for upcoming articles, so my dear ol' memory bank must've blown a gasket. Sorry, gang.*

TO SET THE MATTER STRAIGHT — Greg Valentine defeated Tito Santana with his figure-four to capture the gold on September 24, 1984 in London, Ontario, Canada. Tito regained the strap from "the Hammer" on July 6, 1985 in Baltimore, Maryland to begin his second title reign.

*I am always grateful to all **New Wavers** who take the time to correct any inaccurate information that might find its way into our mighty mat mag. We will always take the high road in order to retain our quickly garnered position as the official magazine of record for FACTUAL wrestling news.)*

Dear Michael:

Since you have more inside news than the other mags, can you provide information on the Big Boss Man?

Belita D. Gregory
Hays, KS

(Mike's memo: Boss Man's real name is Raymond Traylor. He began his career in the mid-1980s as "Big" Bubba Rogers. The million-dollar question: Was he ever a prison guard? — NO!)

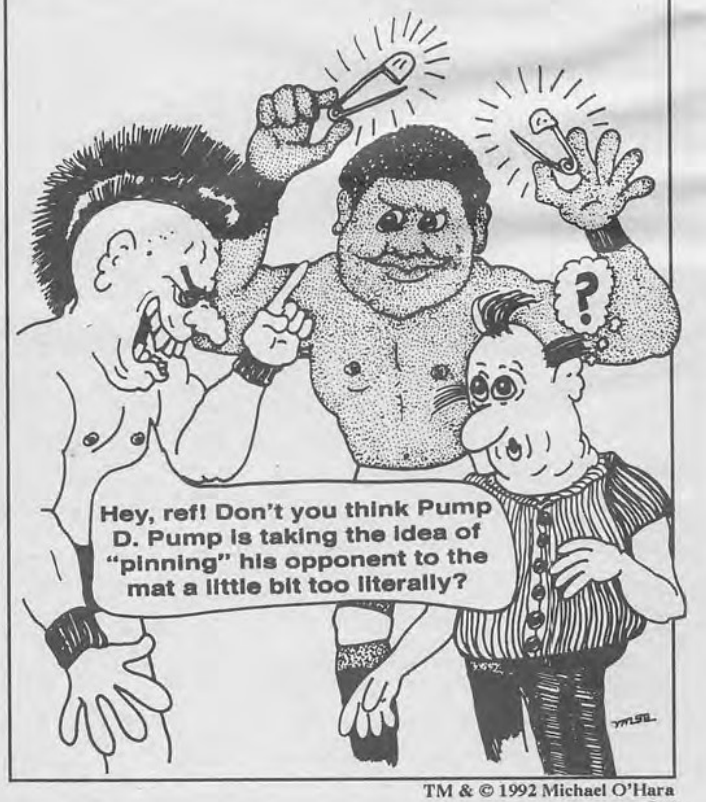
Dear Michael:

Wasn't Ted DiBiase the first WWF Intercontinental champ?

Joe Likavec
Lake Worth, FL

(Mike's memo: No, Ted arrived in the WWF in 1979 as the North American champion. Pat Patterson defeated DiBiase for the strap (with the use of brass knuckles). Shortly after, the title was discontinued, as the NWA held legal claim to the name. Pat was later announced on WWF TV as the winner of an elimination tournament, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the new Intercontinental title. Of course, the event never took place, and the new title belt was actually the old North American strap.)

New Wave Wrestlers™
Created by Michael O'Hara / Art by Vivian McAlexander



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SANTO VS. THE ZOMBIE INVASION (1961) – A mad scientist and his monster army want to take over the world.

SANTO VS. THE VAMPIRE WOMEN (1961) – Need we say more?

SANTO IN THE WAX MUSEUM (1963) – A scientist is turning people into wax figures.

SANTO'S SECRET CARIBBEAN MISSION (1968) – Santo vs. drug dealers. (IN SPANISH - NO SUBTLS.)

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SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 3 – Jimmy Garvin (with Precious) vs. Billy Brooks; Steve Regal & Jim Garvin attack Wahoo McDaniel; Louisiana Title – JYD vs. The Grappler; Mississippi Title – Bob Orton (with Samoans & Orndorff in his corner) vs. Mike George (with Dusty Rhodes & JYD in his corner); Dusty Rhodes brawls with Paul Orndorff & Bob Orton; "Easy" Ed Wiskowski & Bob Orton vs. Ted DiBiase & Mr. Olympia; JYD vs. Masked Terry Orndorff (Shane Douglas), with Paul Orndorff & Bob Orton in Terry's corner.

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SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 16 – "Nature Boy" Ric Flair vs. Wahoo McDaniel.

SUPER WRESTLING ALL-STARS Vol. 17 – Ted DiBiase & Steve Williams vs. Hector & Chavo Guerrero in a steel cage match (color).

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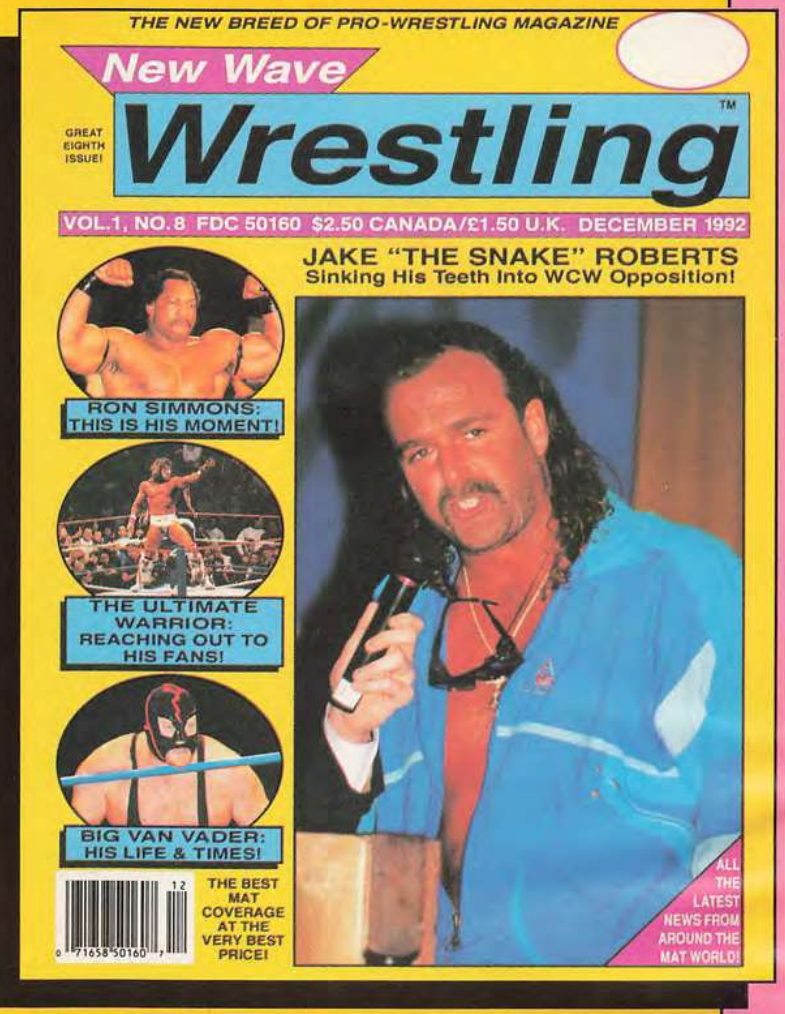
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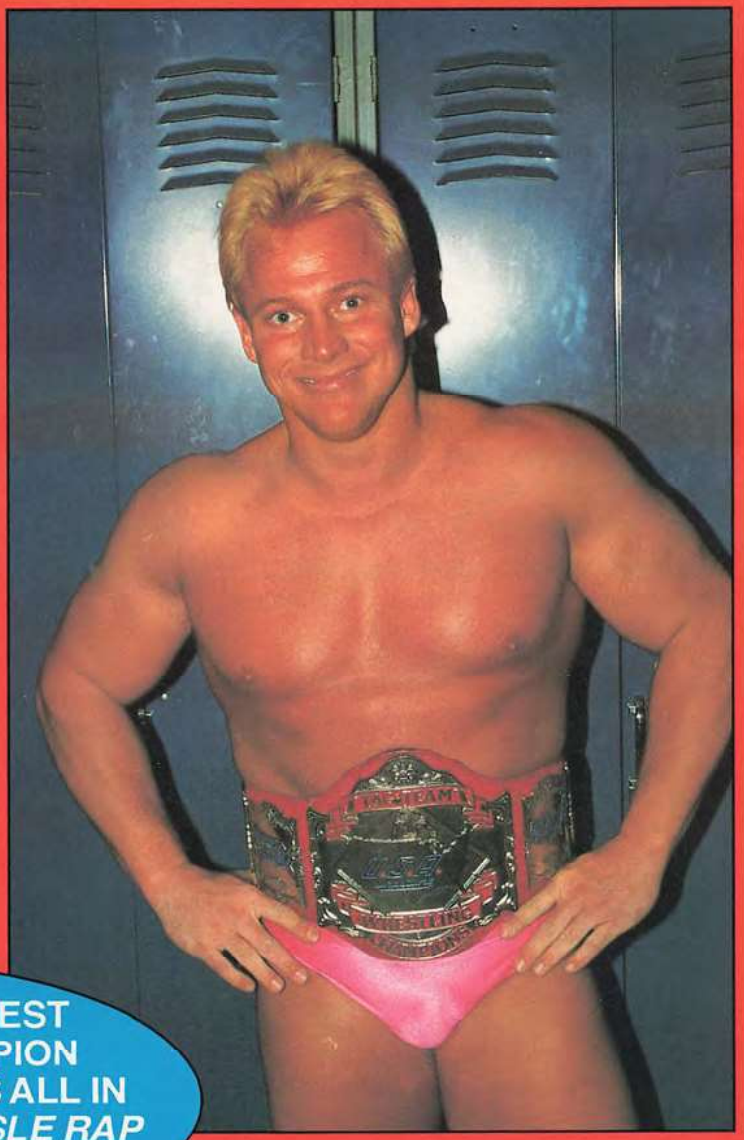

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